Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-027
Monday
10 February 1992

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

World Higher Council Issues Statement, Lauds Fahd *[SPA]* 3
Islamic Joint Action Committee Meets in Jeddah *[SPA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Messages on Peace Talks *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
'Abd Rabbuh—Baker 'Confused' on Loan Guarantees *[AFP]* 4
U.S. Stand on Israel 'Inadequate' *[AFP]* 4
Halting Settlements 'Precondition' for Negotiations *[AL-FAJR 6 Feb]* 5
Results of Moscow Negotiations Assessed 5
Greater Arab Coordination Needed *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Further on Required Unity *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Arabs Avoid 'Practical Stand' on Delegation *[AL-QUDS 1 Feb]* 6
Habash Detention 'Aggression' Against PFLP *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Decrees State of Emergency 9 Feb *[Algiers TV]* 7
No Curfew Announced; 40 Dead in Clashes *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Measures Discussed With Party Leaders *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Political Party Leaders Comment *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Interior Ministry Lodges Complaint Against FIS *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Court To Issue Ruling 'In Few Days' *[Paris Radio]* 9
Government Dissolves FIS *[Algiers Radio]* 9
FIS Leaders Arrested *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS Decree Urges 'Dialogue' *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS Information Committee Head Arrested *[Algiers Radio]* 10
FIS Official on Party's 'Sedition' *[Algiers TV]* 10
Cherati Denies 'Deviation' From Koran *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Haddam Resigns Higher State Council Membership *[Paris International]* 10
Envoy Says Haddam Retains Post *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Haddam Returns, Denies Resigning *[Algiers TV]* 11
Islamic Organization Calls For Jihad *[Paris Radio]* 11
Reportage on Violence, Clashes in Algiers 11
4 Killed, 10 Wounded *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Clashes Continue; Gunfire Heard *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Bab-el Oued Imam Arrested *[Paris Europe No. 1]* 11
'Guarded Calm' Returns *[Algiers Radio]* 11
City 'Calm'; 40 Dead Nationwide *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Further on Violence, Casualties Nationwide 12
Clashes Break Out in Constantine *[Algiers Radio]* 12
'Hundreds' of Demonstrators March *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Clashes, Arrests in Annaba *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Gunfire Heard in Badjerrah *[Algiers Radio]* 12
8 Arrested in Barika *[Algiers TV]* 13
Automatic Weapons Fire Heard in Batna *[Paris Radio]* 13

3 Reported Killed *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Death Toll Reaches 11 *[Algiers Radio]* 13
'Scuffles' in Bechar *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Security Forces Open Fire in Kenchela *[Algiers Radio]* 14
2 Killed, 15 Injured in Clashes *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Setif Governorate Officials Arrested *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Clashes in Sidi Bel Abbes *[Algiers Radio]* 14
'Intense' Clashes in Taher *[Algiers Radio]* 15
300 Attack Tipasa Police Patrol *[Algiers TV]* 15
Stability Restored in Western Region *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Entire Country Reported 'Calm' *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Socialist Forces Leader Rejects Use of Force *[Paris Radio]* 16
Foreign Minister Denies Possibility of Civil War *[APS]* 16

Egypt

Source Denies Involvement in Gates Mission *[MENA]* 17
Alleged Spy Said To Make 'Full Confessions' *[MENA]* 17
Syrian Prime Minister Attends Joint Meeting 17
Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 17
Praises Syrian-Egyptian Ties *[MENA]* 17
Joint Committee Convenes *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Peace Talks Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Musa Stresses Land for Peace Principle *[MENA]* 18
Closing Statement Issued *[MENA]* 18
Mubarak Receives al-Z'ubi *[Cairo Radio]* 20
German Defense Minister Arrives for Talks 20
Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 20
Meets Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Addresses Welcoming Ceremony *[MENA]* 21
Defense Minister Views Military Ties *[MENA]* 21
Stoltenberg Comments *[MENA]* 22
Further on Seized Tank Shipment *[Hamburg DPA]* 22

Mauritania

State Releases 30 Oppositionists as 'Appeasement' *[Libreville Africa No. 1]* 22

Sudan

'Violent Demonstrations' in Omdurman, Khartoum *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 23
Military Setting Up Revolutionary Guards Corps *[AL-WAFD 6 Feb]* 23
Iranian Advisers Ready To Train Guards *[AL-DIYAR 3 Feb]* 23
'Permanent Rights' Claimed Over Egypt Border Areas *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Authorities Arrest 250 Preachers, Launch Manhunt *[AL-SHA'B 4 Feb]* 25
'Source' Says Reports 'Baseless' *[SPA]* 25

IRAQ

Saddam Praises 'Spirit' of Factory Workers *[INA]* 26
Minister Reacts to Security Council Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Bush Urged To Concentrate on Job as 'Salesman' *[INA]* 27
UN Team Enters Scientific Council Building *[INA]* 27
Scientific Union Protests Search *[INA]* 28
Government Reportedly Moving Offices From Karkuk *[Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution]* 28

ISRAEL

U.S. Demand To Halt Settlement Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Shoval Asks About Private Building *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Leahy Formula Termed 'Fair Proposal' *[HA'ARETZ 9 Feb]* 29
Country 'To Go on Haggling' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Baker Retracts Offer Due to 'Mistrust' *[HA'ARETZ 10 Feb]* 30
Shoval: Differences 'Not Insignificant' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Ministers, Comment on Settlement-Guarantees Talks 31
Olmert Sees Offer as Shamir 'Victory' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Others Reject U.S. 'Pressure' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Shamir Aide: No Settlement Freeze *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Clarification Sought on Detainees in Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
'Official Sources' Deny Spy Charge *[HADASHOT 10 Feb]* 33
Yeshiva Students Take Over House in Old City *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Levi Declares Candidacy for Likud Leadership *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Heart Attack Ruled in Death of Security Detainee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Rabin Edges Peres by 10 Percent Within Labor *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Feb]* 34
Rabin on Policies if Elected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Interviewed by Cairo Daily *[AL-AHRAM 3 Feb]* 35

JORDAN

Removal of Muslim Cemeteries in Jerusalem Condemned *[Amman Radio]* 37
Al-Majali Hails Baker Statement on Settlements *[Amman Radio]* 37
Editorial Criticizes Baker Request *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Feb]* 37
Baker Tour of Islamic Republics Criticized *[AL-RA'Y 8 Feb]* 37
'That Country' Accused of Repressing Islamists *[AL-RIBAT 4 Feb]* 38

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Holds Talks With Syria's al-Asad *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Preparations for Papal Visit to Lebanon Discussed *[VOL]* 40
Buwayz Denies U.S. Advice on Israeli Withdrawal *[VOL]* 40
Army Commander—Focus on Liberating South *[VOM]* 40
Publication of 'Awn Book Prohibited *[AL-NAHAR 5 Feb]* 40

SYRIA

IAEA Head Visits, Discusses Safeguard Pact *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 41
State Minister, Blix Confer *[SANA]* 41
Blix Meets Education Minister *[SANA]* 41
Israeli Capability Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Agreement on Safeguards Reported *[SANA]* 41
Blix Comments on Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Further on Blix News Conference *[SANA]* 42
Al-Asad, Lebanese Leaders Hold Summit Meeting 43
Al-Hirawi Arrives *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Talks Commence *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Peace Process Discussed *[SANA]* 44
Al-Zu'bi Heads Delegation to Talks in Cairo *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Foreign Minister on Moscow Talks, Peace Process *[MENA]* 44
Baker Statement on Settlements Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibollah Trying To Defuse Tension in North *[AFP]* 46

UN Envoy Optimistic About End to Afghan War *[AFP]* 46
Krshtmand Attacked by 'Unidentified Assailant' *[Kabul Radio]* 47

Bangladesh

Unscheduled Border Talks Held With Burma *[AFP]* 47
Pakistani Air Force Chief Arrives on Visit *[Dhaka Radio]* 47
Meets Army, Air Force Chiefs *[Dhaka Radio]* 47

India

Security Increased Over Kashmir Events 47
Defense Minister Warns Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 47
'Thousands' of Kashmiris Rally *[AFP]* 47
EC Asks Pakistan To Hinder Crossing *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Congress-I, CPI Criticize Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 48
'No Change' in Government Stand *[ISI]* 48
Curfew Along Kashmir Border *[Delhi Radio]* 49
'No Dialogue' on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Officers Review Security Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 49
'Provocative Signals' From Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Government 'In Contact' With Islamabad *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Rao Convenes Intraparty Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Parties Condemn Planned March *[Delhi Radio]* 50
'Strict Vigil' on Line of Control *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Pakistan 'Responsible' for Consequences *[Delhi Radio]* 51
'Selected Areas' of Kashmir Line Mined *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Rao—Pakistan Not To Permit Crossing *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Right-Wing Hindu Party Office in Bombay Bombed *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Khamene'i Assails U.S. Global Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Spokesman Urges Armenia, Azerbaijan To End War *[IRNA]* 53
Azerbaijan Seeks Mediation Help *[Tehran TV]* 53
Armenian Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Seeks Help in Ending Strife *[IRNA]* 53
Joint Statement on Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 54
IAEA Official Favors Bushehr Reactor Completion *[IRNA]* 54
Khomeyni Condemns 'Suppression' of Muslims *[Tehran Radio]* 54

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepalese Party Supporters Clash in By-Elections *[AFP]* 54

Pakistan

Khan—Nuclear Program Not for Weapons *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Further on Kashmir Border Crossing Controversy 55
Bhutto Urges JKLF To Delay Crossing *[THE NEWS 8 Feb]* 55
Government To Stop Crossing 'Politely' *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Azad Kashmir Chief Warns Against Crossing *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
THK Leaders Oppose Border March *[Pakistan TV]* 56
Kashmiri Leaders Arrested *[AFP]* 56
8 Injured in Clashes *[AFP]* 57
India 'Trigger-Happy' Over Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Kashmir Movement Urges Economic Boycott of India *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

50 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed *[LANKAPUVATH]* 58

Algeria

The Higher State Council's 9 February declaration imposing a state of emergency was broadcast by Algiers television. The government dissolved the Islamic Salvation Front, stormed the movement's headquarters, and arrested its leaders, Algiers radio reported. Speaking to the television, a member of the Higher State Council denied a Paris international radio report that he had resigned. Algiers was reported "calm" on 10 February, 40 people having been killed in clashes over the weekend, the radio continued.

Egypt

The country "has nothing whatsoever" to do with a report that the chief of the CIA is working with regional countries on a plan to topple Saddam Husayn, a "responsible source" told MENA. The interior minister said an Israeli arrested last week has made "full confessions" on espionage charges, the agency continued. The prime minister told his visiting Syrian counterpart that Egypt "fully understands" the Syrian position on the Arab-Israeli talks, Cairo radio disclosed, while MENA reported details of a statement on the visit.

Israel

Publicly, the country will not agree to reduce settlement construction in the West Bank and Gaza, Jerusalem radio reported; according to leaked reports, however, Jerusalem is willing to do so, the radio continued. Sources opined that "the haggling over the guarantees will last quite a few weeks," Tel Aviv radio added, while various broadcast and print sources focused on the importance of housing starts in forging an agreement on the guarantees. The ambassador to Washington, meanwhile, noted that the differences separating the countries are "not insignificant," Jerusalem radio noted. The country insists on its consular rights regarding two Israelis arrested in Cairo, the radio disclosed, while "official sources" cited by HADASHOT denied any connection whatsoever between the detainees and the country's intelligence services. The foreign minister declared his candidacy for leadership of the Likud, the radio disclosed, while a YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll found that Yitzhaq Rabin holds a 10 percentage point lead over Shim'on Peres within the Labor Party. A man who was found dead while in custody of security forces died of heart failure, the radio continued.

Sudan

"Violent demonstrations" took place in Khartoum and Omdurman, among other places, Radio Monte Carlo reported, with other regional media attributing the unrest to Iranian instigation. A Foreign Ministry spokesman affirmed the country's rights to two areas on the Red Sea, criticizing recent Egyptian remarks about the areas and saying that Sudan "would not concede one inch" of the territory, Omdurman radio reported.

Iraq

Saddam's speech to factory workers was transmitted by INA, which added that Saddam was accompanied by (former defense minister) "Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former supervisor of the industry sector, and Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, former senior under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals." The foreign minister reacted with "regret" and said he was "astonished" by the UN decision not to soften the trade sanctions, "a prejudgment...which has no legal or logical basis," Baghdad radio reported. The country has, the foreign minister asserted, taken steps to comply with Security Council Resolution 687. A UN inspection team's entry into the headquarters of an international scientific group under the "pretext" of searching for documents belonging to the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization "provides additional evidence of the teams' violations" of their mandate, according to INA.

Jordan

The chief negotiator to the Arab-Israeli talks welcomed remarks by Secretary Baker on Israeli settlement policy, terming them "positive and good," Amman radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Authorities have arrested 250 preachers and begun a "manhunt" for others, the Cairo paper AL-SHA'B declared, adding that the "extremist elements" are accused of disseminating audio and video cassettes attacking corruption and a perceived government abandonment of Islamic law. A "responsible source" rejected reports about "arrests and differences of opinion in the Kingdom," SPA reported, adding that such reports appearing in Western and Arab media "are totally baseless and have no shred of truth."

Lebanon

The chief of the censorship authority prohibited AL-NAHAR from publishing further excerpts of a book by General Michel 'Awn, saying that the publisher is not properly licensed, the paper disclosed.

Pakistan

The foreign secretary said that the country's nuclear program is not designed to manufacture weapons, and that THE WASHINGTON POST had recently misquoted him on the issue, Islamabad radio reported. As the planned crossing of the Line of Control in Kashmir drew closer, the radio broadcast a commentary on India's "trigger-happy attitude" toward the event, set for 11 February.

India

The Indian minister warned Islamabad of the "serious consequences" of allowing Kashmiris to cross the Line of Control, according to Delhi radio, which later cited the defense minister's remark that the two governments were in contact on the issue. Meanwhile, an official spokesman said there has been "no change" in government policy, and denied that India is seeking mediation, Delhi's ISI agency noted.

Islamic Affairs

World Higher Council Issues Statement, Lauds Fahd

LD0702102492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Holy Mecca, 4 Feb (SPA)— A world Islamic Council consisting of an elite of Muslim scholars has expressed its deep appreciation of the pioneering Islamic role played by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and his successful efforts for the promotion of Muslims and helping their causes. It stressed in particular the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques in the domain of spreading the Islamic call throughout the world, reviving the mission of mosques, and care for Muslim minorities. This came in a press release published today in Holy Mecca at the end of the meetings of the 15th session of the World Higher Council for Mosques. [passage omitted]

The Council members studied the urgent Islamic issues, and reached a range of resolutions and recommendations to tackle these issues. In its resolutions and recommendations, the Council emphasized that Muslims must implement Islamic Shari'ah [religious law], and considered this as a guarantee for the unity of the Islamic nation, and the organizing of its affairs and relations with nations.

The World Higher Council for Mosques reiterated its rejection of the Zionist presence founded on usurpation and aggression in Palestine, and affirmed that the land of Palestine is an Islamic land. It urged Muslims, rulers and peoples, to contribute to the maintenance of the holy al-Aqsa mosque, to guarding it, to the protection of the Islamic endowment properties, and to the strengthening of the [Islamic] call and the building of mosques, as well as the role of the Holy Koran and Islamic centers in Palestine.

The Council touched on the Afghan issue, and urged Muslims to support the Afghan jihad so that it may be able to realize more achievements and victory on its enemies. The Council pointed out the harassment of Muslims in India, and urged the Indian Government to enforce the protection of the mosques of Muslims, their lives and properties, their treatment on equal footing with the Indian citizens, and the respect of their rites.

The council stressed the need for action to protect the rights of the Muslims of the Philippines, and for the respect of treaties and conventions concluded on this matter. The Council sees that the conflict in Somalia leads to the fragmentation of the unity of the sons of the Islamic people of Somalia, and recommended to the Islamic World League to work for the setting up of a committee of Islamic scholars to seek an end to this conflict to preserve the blood of Muslims and their unity, to realize their vital interests, and stand in the way of the schemes hostile to Islam and Muslims, especially in the Horn of Africa region.

The World Higher Council for Mosques called on Islamic bodies and institutions to give emergency aid to Burmese refugees fleeing to Bangladesh and called on international bodies to work for bringing the government of Burma to grant Muslim Burmese their religious and and human liberties on the basis of equality with other citizens.

The Council also called on Islamic governments, organizations and bodies in the various Yugoslav republics and provinces to work for the consolidation of brotherhood ties with Muslims in Bosnia and Hercegovina. [passage omitted]

Islamic Joint Action Committee Meets in Jeddah

LD0902100792 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Jeddah, Feb 8, SPA—The sixth meeting of the Islamic Joint Action Committee, an affiliate of the Islamic Conference organization [ICO], started at the ICO's headquarters here Saturday.

In an opening speech, Dr Hamid al-Gabid, Secretary General of the ICO, thanked custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz for his constant and generous support to the Islamic Joint Action and his recent initiative for the convention of the first international conference of Islamic minorities and communities.

Dr al-Gabid expressed the hope that the meeting would come out with the targeted results to enhance the Islamic Joint Action in the field of call in compliance to the resolutions adopted by the 6th ICO's summit conference which was held in Dakar.

He also expressed hope the Islamic Joint Action in the upcoming phase would keep pace with the tremendous and rapid changes sweeping the international arena.

Dr al-Gabid emphasized that the appearance of new Islamic nations will change the world's political map. Some Islamic nations in Central Asia and Europe have already made necessary arrangements to join the ICO, a step which would bolster cooperation with the Muslims of these nations, he said.

The head of the Jeddah-based organization cited the vital role to be undertaken by organizations working in the Islamic call field.

Dr al-Gabid afterwards presented to the meeting a report on the profound changes being witnessed by the international arena and an Islamic well-defined strategy to upgrade the performance of the Islamic call establishments worldwide.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Messages on Peace Talks

JN0802180392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Statement by "an official Palestinian spokesman" in Tunis on 7 February—read by announcer]

[Text] At a meeting yesterday the PLO Executive Committee made a number of decisions and moves to counter increasing settlement activity in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. This occurred while negotiations are ongoing between the United States and the Israeli Government regarding the $10 billion loan guarantees proposed to be paid over five years at the rate of $2 billion annually.

The PLO has addressed an urgent note to Arab states, and brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has sent urgent messages to Arab leaders and countries involved in the peace process, as well as Islamic and African and Nonaligned nations. Talks are being held in Washington between the U.S. Administration and Israeli officials, and, in the meantime, Israeli bulldozers are busy conducting surveys of large tracts of occupied Palestinian and Arab land.

The Israeli Government's settlement drive focuses on Jerusalem and its vicinity, with a view to Judaizing the city and its Arab environs so as to obliterate its Arab and Islamic and Christian features, ahead of building the third Temple of Solomon on the ruins of the al-Aqsa and Dome of the Rock Mosques. The goal is to absorb and accommodate the largest possible number of Jews, especially newly arrived immigrants.

The arguments advanced by the U.S. Administration for granting all or part of the requested loan guarantees are unacceptable and are designed to boost the Israeli economy, perpetuate the occupation, gobble up land, and establish additional settlements.

The PLO views what is taking place as something serious that will scuttle the peace process and the bilateral and multilateral talks, as well as foster regional destabilization and create serious complications, especially given declarations by Zionist leaders that the occupation will continue and that there will be no letup in their aggressive practices and ugly crimes. This is in addition to an unabated settlement drive in defiance of the Palestinian people, the Arab and Islamic nation, UN resolutions, the international community, and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee is still in session as the bilateral talks in Washington draw closer. The settlement activity hangs over these talks, and so the international community and the United Nations, and especially the U.S. Administration, are urged to take a firm stand on the issue.

'Abd Rabbuh—Baker 'Confused' on Loan Guarantees

NC0702194692 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tunis, Feb 7 (AFP)—The PLO has warned the United States and others about risks to the Middle East peace talks if Washington grants Israel loan guarantees to resettle immigrants, a Palestinian official said here Friday.

The Palestine Liberation Organization recently sent a "clear letter on this issue" to the talks sponsors, the United States and Russia, as well as to Arab and European states, PLO information department head Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said.

'Abd Rabbuh said he feared the United States was heading for a compromise that would amount to a capitulation on Israel's request for guarantees on 10 billion dollars in loans, spread over five years.

There is a risk that the peace process could come to a halt because granting the guarantees "would give legal backing" to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, 'Abd Rabbuh said in a statement to AFP.

'Abd Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the PLO is examining developments in the loan guarantee issue as well as the expected resumption of bilateral Israeli-Arab talks on February 24 in Washington.

"We believe that the future of the peace negotiations depends specially on the question of the United States not accepting the bank guarantees for Israel and the halt of Israeli settlements," he said.

'Abd Rabbuh described as "confused" the last statements from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker about the loan guarantees. Such statements appear aimed "at paving the way for a compromise which would amount in fact to a total submission to Israeli demands," he added.

U.S. Stand on Israel 'Inadequate'

NC0902161892 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Tunis, Feb 9 (AFP)—A hardening U.S. position on housing loan guarantees for Israel falls short of PLO demands and still endangers the Middle East peace process, a senior Palestinian official warned Sunday.

PLO information chief Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh termed as "inadequate" a call by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for Israel to stop settlements in occupied lands in exchange for U.S. housing loan guarantees.

The Palestine Liberation Organization asked the United States that it "abstain totally from granting Israel the least credit," he added. [passage omitted]

'Abd Rabbuh, a PLO Executive Committee member, called for "an Israeli commitment to stop totally all

settlement efforts in Jerusalem and in all the occupied Palestinian territories as well as in the Golan and south Lebanon."

He stressed "the PLO considers that any compromise solution on granting American credits will lead to the destruction of the peace process" in the Middle East.

A compromise would also amount to "American support for the electoral campaign" of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

'Abd Rabbuh called on "all Arab states to inform the American administration of this position and of the dangers that would come from direct or indirect financing of the settlements."

He said the Palestinians "will reject any compromise solution" between Washington and Israel on the issue, adding that such solutions constitute a "threat for the bilateral and multilateral" Arab-Israeli talks.

Halting Settlements 'Precondition' for Negotiations

TA0602145692 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Feb 92 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Jerusalem/Washington—An informed source in the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations has affirmed that the upcoming round of the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks will be held on 24 February in Washington. The source said that this date was set following intensive contacts between the U.S. Administration, the Arab parties, and Israel. [passage omitted]

Informed Palestinian sources expect the upcoming round of talks in Washington to be extremely significant in that they will indicate whether Israel intends to move forward in the peace process by halting settlement activity in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians had made a halt to settlement activity a precondition for delving into the agenda about an interim authority. The Palestinians intend to stick to this demand in the next round of talks and not delve into the agenda before a complete halt to all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories.

AL-FAJR has learned that the U.S. Administration is exerting pressure on the Israeli side to stop settlement activity. It is also pressuring the Palestinian side not to make a halt to settlement activity a precondition for engaging in the talks and discussing other topics. For their part, the Palestinians have explained to the U.S. Administration that stopping settlement activity is a top priority of Palestinian concerns in the present phase and that it is inconceivable for the Palestinians to enter into a discussion of the agenda while Israel continues its settlement activities on the ground. [passage omitted]

Results of Moscow Negotiations Assessed

Greater Arab Coordination Needed

LD0502101892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The facts of the news conference held at the national theater in Jerusalem yesterday by members of our delegation who returned from Moscow reflected the constant character and clarity of the Palestinian stand toward the multilateral and bilateral negotiations. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman, affirmed the futility of achieving any progress in the multilateral talks without realizing the same progress in the bilateral negotiations. This is what Israel is trying to bypass by reaping its fruit from the Arabs at the expense of the bilateral negotiations, which are standing still in the circles of tricks on one hand in order to gain time so as to achieve its designs and ambitions in Moscow without giving anything to the Arabs. This matter is liable to create a rift in the wall of Arab coordination, which now seems to be floating around in a weightless manner.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian negotiating team, made clear the reasons that prevented Palestinian participation in the multilateral negotiations in Moscow. These are the reasons that are represented in the refusal of the two cosponsors of the talks to introduce necessary and urgent modifications in the formula that was adopted in Madrid. This matter made Palestinian participation in these negotiations, in accordance with the same foundations on the basis of which the Madrid negotiations were held, an issue which contains no benefit for the Palestinian cause.

We are of the opinion that the conclusion which can be drawn from the multilateral negotiations is represented in the need to deepen coordination and solidarity between the Arab parties participating in the negotiations. Similarly, this result imposes on the two cosponsoring states and on the UN Security Council the need to assume the role which they must undertake toward giving an impetus to the peace process through political and economic pressures on Israel to make it abandon its dreams of Greater Israel and comply with the international will.

Further on Required Unity

LD0402225192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] O brothers, the upcoming phase of the peace conference is based on the inevitable, clear, and open link between the timing, work, and measures of the committees set up as a result of the Moscow conference on the one hand, and on the upcoming rounds of bilateral negotiations on the other.

Thanks to enormous and far-reaching support from the United States, Israel succeeded in making important political gains from the Moscow multilateral conference. However, these gains, for which Israel has not paid any price so far, must face a real and direct settling of accounts during bilateral negotiations based on the principle of land for peace, an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land, and on the implementation of international law in accordance with UN resolutions.

Israeli sources reported U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as saying that in all honesty Israel can be proud of the Moscow conference, etc., and that in view of this Israel should pave the way to restoring relations with Arab states, and that Israeli public opinion should realize that real peace can be achieved and ensured only through the success of the expected series of meetings and rounds of bilateral talks. This means that the old assumption that multilateral negotiations would encourage Israel to strive for the success of these negotiations on firm foundations and principles is closer to being put to a serious test.

Israel made numerous gains from the Moscow conference. What effect does the old assumption say that this will have on the peace process?

The Arab states that took part in the multilateral negotiations need to understand this assumption better than other states. They are also called upon to coordinate their steps within the committees on all details and minute aspects of the next bilateral negotiations. Otherwise there will be no real peace.

Arabs Avoid 'Practical Stand' on Delegation

TA0702164992 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Feb 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The Moscow Conference: Lessons and Conclusions"]

[Text] The Palestinians did not participate in the regional Moscow multilateral conference because Israel and the cosponsors of the conference rejected the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian delegation's position enjoyed widespread support in the Palestinian street and immense understanding from most Arab and international parties participating in the conference. In a step apparently designed to reduce the anger of the Palestinians and to ensure their participation in the peace process, the United States gave some ambiguous promises concerning the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora in some of the conference's committees.

Through its rejection of the formula for Palestinian representation in Madrid and its boycott of the conference's meetings, the Palestinian delegation proved that the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories are an integral unit. Nevertheless, we must consider two important observations if we are to learn the lessons from what happened in Moscow.

—The first observation, which concerns the Arab and international position, is that although most of the countries that participated in the regional conference recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate political leadership of the Palestinian people, we did not see any of those countries taking a practical stand regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation that conformed with their declared political recognition of the PLO. The Palestinian delegation remained alone outside the conference's hall. The conference's meetings proceeded and the working committees were formed as planned without any Arab delegation withdrawing, or even contemplating withdrawal, in solidarity with the Palestinian position or in keeping with its political recognition. This is a warning of a real danger threatening the Palestinian cause. That danger is summed up in the real possibility that Arab relations with Israel might be normalized before a just solution to the Palestinian people's problem is reached. The fear of this danger is growing because most of the Arab states, in their practical political deeds, do not behave in accordance with their public positions regarding the Palestinian problem or the PLO.

—The second observation, which concerns the Palestinian position itself, is that every time a disagreement arises over Palestinian representation or an obstacle appears in the negotiations process in general, the Palestinians, to justify their position, resort to the U.S. letter of "assurances" or point to the U.S. Administration's retreat from the promises that it made to the Palestinian side. The promises and assurances referred to by the Palestinian delegation are still unclear to the majority of the Palestinian people, while the Israeli side adheres to "what was agreed on before the peace process was launched." This is a clear contradiction that must be resolved and clarified by the Palestinian political leadership, which should reassess the U.S. "assurances" and everything that it has built on the basis of those "assurances."

Habash Detention 'Aggression' Against PFLP

JN0702112792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] considers the detention of its leader, George Habash, in Paris last week for interrogation tantamount to an act of aggression against it. The PFLP, however, adheres to the preservation of the friendly ties between the Palestinian and French peoples.

In statements published in today's issue of the French paper LE FIGARO, PFLP official Fu'ad Abu-Ahmad also states his belief that the Habash case has served Israel's interests.

Algeria

Boudiaf Decrees State of Emergency 9 Feb

LD0902192692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Following the grave and repeated harming of the security of the citizens and the civil peace in various parts of the national territory in recent days, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, after meeting with the Higher Security Council, and after consulting the prime minister and the chairman of the Constitutional Council, signed a decree providing for the declaration of a state of emergency today, Sunday.

This decree will come into force as of today, 9 February 1992, at 2000 local time [1900 GMT].

Furthermore, Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf will address the nation tomorrow, 10 February, at 2000.

In accordance with the Constitution, particularly Articles 76/6, 86, and 116/1; in accordance with the declaration of the Constitutional Council dated 11 January 1992 and the declaration dated 14 January 1992 providing for the establishment of the Higher State Council; in accordance with circular [mudawalah] No. 92/1 dated 19 January 1992, which empowers the chairman of the State Council to sign all organizational and individual decisions and to chair the Council of Ministers; as a result of the serious and continuous violations of public order that have taken place in several parts of the national territory; in view of the threats to the stability of institutions and the serious and repeated violation of the citizens' security and civil peace; following the meeting of the Higher Security Council and consultations with the head of government and the chairman of the Constitutional Council; following the deliberations of the Higher State Council; and pursuant to all this, the chairman of the Higher State Council decrees the following:

Article 1. A state of emergency is declared throughout the national territory as of today, 9 February. The state of emergency may be lifted before the end of this period.

Article 2. The purpose of the state of emergency is to establish public order and to better guarantee the security of persons and property, and also to secure the proper functioning of public services.

Article 3. The government will take all the organizational measures falling within its prerogatives in order to meet the objectives for which the state of emergency has been declared.

Article 4. The minister of interior, in relation to national territory as a whole or part thereof, and the governors, in relation to their regional constituencies, are empowered to take the necessary measures to preserve public order and ensure that it prevails. They may issue orders in accordance with the following decisions, and in accordance with government guidelines.

Article 5. The minister of interior can order that anyone of full legal age whose activity is clearly found to be constituting a danger to public order and security, or to the proper functioning of public services, be placed in a security post in a specific place. The security posts are to be set up by a decision of the interior minister.

Article 6. The implementation of the state of emergency empowers the interior minister, in relation to national territory as a whole, and the governors, in relation to the territory of the governorates, to do the following, within the framework of government directives:

1. Limit or prohibit the movement of persons and vehicles in specific places and times;

2. Organize the circulation and distribution of foodstuffs, as well as of utilities of prime necessity;

3. Designate specific areas for an organized residence for nonresidents;

4. Refuse residence to, or place under house arrest, anyone of legal age whose activity is clearly seen as harming public order or the functioning of public services.

5. Commandeer [munadarah] workers to do their usual jobs in the event of an unauthorized or illegal strike. This applies to public or private institutions and is designed to secure the provision of public services.

6. Issue exceptional search warrants at any time of day or night.

Article 7. The minister of interior and the regional governors concerned shall issue orders for the temporary closure of places of entertainment, halls, and assembly places of whatever nature, as well as for the banning of all demonstrations likely to disturb peace and public order.

Article 8. When the legitimate work of the public authorities is obstructed or impeded by deliberate obstructive actions or declared opposition by local councils or municipal executive bodies, the government shall, whenever necessary, take measures to suspend the activities of these councils and bodies or dissolve them.

In this case, the caretaker authority shall appoint executive agencies at the level of the regional communities concerned, pending the formation of newly elected councils and bodies.

Article 9. The minister of interior shall have the power to entrust the military authorities, by means of delegation of powers, with the task of maintaining order on the local level or in specified regional areas.

Article 10. It will be possible to inform the military courts of crimes and major felonies committed against

the security of the state, whoever the instigators of these crimes and felonies, their perpetrators, or the parties to them may be.

Article 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 8 mentioned above, the measures and restrictions specified in this decree shall be lifted as soon as the state of emergency is terminated, with the exception of judicial prosecutions.

Article 12. This decree shall be published in the official gazette of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

No Curfew Announced; 40 Dead in Clashes

LD0902205392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher State Council proclaimed a state of emergency an hour ago. The state of emergency in is force for a period of 12 months, but it could be lifted before the year is up if the situation improves, or it could be renewed if that proves necessary.

The Higher State Council pointed out that this decision became inevitable due to the disturbances and lack of security last week. I remind you that these disturbances have caused 40 deaths. For the moment no curfew has been announced, but a certain number of measures will be announced in the next few hours to limit people's movements. Political parties and citizens retain the full right to carry out their activities and to exercise their freedom of action.

Measures Discussed With Party Leaders

LD0902141892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, received at the Presidency this morning the leaders of eight [figure as heard] political parties. They were: Ahmed Ben Bella [leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria], Abdelhamid Mehri [National Liberation Front secretary general], Mahfoud Nahnah [leader of the Islamic Society Movement, Hamas], Hachemi Cherif [coordinator of the Social Vanguard Party], Said Saadi [leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy], Kasdi Merbah [leader of the Movement for Justice and Development], and Nourreddine Boukrouh [leader of the Algerian Party for Renewal]. Mr. Hocine Ait Ahmed, FFS [Social Forces Front] leader, also received an invitation to attend the meeting but did not attend it.

According to sources close to the presidency, it is expected that Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf will be continuing his consultations with the rest of the leaders of other political parties.

The aim of this meeting was to examine the current situation in the country and to brief those parties on measures that are to be announced soon. It is expected that a state of emergency will be declared.

Here are more details from the following interview which Hizia Hideb recorded with Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Party for Renewal:

[Begin recording] [Hideb] Mr. Boukrouh, we have learned that Mr. Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, had a meeting with a number of leaders of political parties, among which was the Algerian Party for Renewal. Can you tell us more about the meeting?

[Boukrouh] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate. Yes, it true that today we attended the first ever meeting between the chairman of the Higher State Council and seven national parties. This meeting took place following Mr. Boudiaf's initiative. And it was an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the serious situation facing Algeria today.

This meeting was an opportunity to brief us on the measures that are going to be taken by the Higher State Council soon. Such measures will be of interest to the security situation in the country; they will be made public very soon.

[Hideb] Mr. Boukrouh, were you briefed on such measures? What kind of measures are to be taken?

[Boukrouh] It is not my role to give details on those measures. I have told you such measures will revolve around the need to reestablish security; they will be measures to control the situation in the country given the current events.

However, I can tell the opinion of the Algerian Party for Renewal as we put it to Mr. Boudiaf. We told him, in the name of the Algerian Party for Renewal, that force and repression are not a policy; force should not be a policy per se, it should be a means in the service of politics. I also told him that the general public does not feel, and rightly so, that the new Higher State Council is there to create a deep change. In other words, I would like to say here that the image that the Higher State Council should portray is that it did not come as a continuation of the previous authority, which had been there for a long time and about which people had been complaining. The people want radical changes and new things.

[Hideb] Mr. Boukrouh, what was the aim behind Mr. Boudiaf's invitation to the parties? Is it to consult with those parties before taking certain measures?

[Boukrouh] No, it is not like that. It does not mean that Mr. Boudiaf wanted to consult with the parties before taking whatever measures; the latter were taken yesterday following the meeting of the Higher Security Council. The latter has already made its decisions; Mr. Boudiaf wanted to tell us and wanted to brief us on the nature of such measures without giving us any details and without taking into account the parties' opinion. He said that he was going to tell us that there will be measures which will not be detrimental to democracy

and to the free political expression of every citizen. Those measures will be taken in order to guarantee stability in the country.

[Hideb] Mr. Boukrouh, was the invitation being extended to all parties?

[Boukrouh] I think that the number of parties that attended the meeting with Mr. Boudiaf was seven. However, I do not know anything about how the arrangements were made for the holding of the meeting. We were only contacted this morning before coming to the meeting. Therefore I am not sure how arrangements were made. They might have invited parties that are based in Algiers. However, parties with different political inclination were present at this meeting.

[Hideb] What impression did the political parties have following their meeting with Mr. Boudiaf?

[Boukrouh] Every party reiterated its traditional position. I can only speak here about our own position. We reiterated to him that the new body [Higher Security Council] should give the impression that it was not formed in order to give privileges to one side and not the other. The new body must adopt radical changes. However, in order to guarantee public order we must regain national stability which should be accompanied by political measures—measures which would lead people to think that the current authority is not a continuation of the old authority. [end recording]

Political Party Leaders Comment

LD1002075992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The leaders of the seven political parties who were received yesterday by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, unanimously agreed in their statement on only one point: the continuity of the election process. The secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN] did not make a statement after the meeting, while the Socialist Forces Front—whose president, Mr. Ait Ahmed, did not attend the meeting—limited itself to issuing a written statement.

In the statement the FFS pointed out that the meeting took place only to inform the party leaders of the decisions made by the Higher State Council, and it indicated that this did not happen within the framework of the dialogue and consultation called for by the FFS, which did not spare any effort in calling for the finding of a political solution to a political crisis.

On the other hand, Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, chairman of the Party of Algerian Renewal, stated that he reiterated during the meeting the known requests of his party, especially those concerning the radical change in the pyramid of power to gain the confidence of the masses.

Mr. Kasdi Merbah, president of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD], emphasized after the meeting with the chairman of the Higher State Council the need to determine an election agenda for the presidency and the parliament to settle the current political crisis.

On the other hand, the al-Nahdah movement, which is chaired by Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, emphasized in a statement which said in particular that there is no value in any political thinking unless it is based on the people's right to chose their rulers and the individual's right to exercise his general freedoms.

The chairman of the Hamas movement agreed in his statement with the call made by the Workers' Party and the Jihad Front for Unity Party to overcome the current crisis that the country is witnessing. The Jihad Front for Unity Party has been the only party calling for the forming of a committee called the committee for the quelling of sedition to be formed from the patriotic and Islamic parties and to be in charge of working with the head of government to find an outlet for all national issues.

Interior Ministry Lodges Complaint Against FIS

LD0902201992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] It has been learned that the Ministry of the Interior today lodged a complaint with the administrative court against the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which, if it is successful, will lead to the dissolution of the party.

Court To Issue Ruling 'In Few Days'

LD0902233192 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2300 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Report by Anne Dissez from Algiers]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Sunday evening General Belkheir, the minister of interior, lodged a request with an administrative court for the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The decision will be issued in a few days time. This is Anne Dissez of RFI [Radio France Internatinal] for France-Inter, in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Government Dissolves FIS

LD0902221992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] A short while ago we received this statement from the Ministry of the Interior:

Following the repeated violations of the law committed by the political association called the Islamic Salvation Front, the public authorities have decided to apply the suspension and dissolution measure stipulated in Articles 33, 34, and 35 of Law No. 89/11 dated 5 July 1989 relating to political associations.

This measure was taken after it became clear that the aforementioned political association is seeking through subversive actions to realize objectives that are seriously threatening public order and the institutions of the state.

This is the end of the Ministry of Interior's statement.

FIS Leaders Arrested

LD0902124492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] National radio learned this morning that a group of law-enforcement forces have raided the headquarters of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] located on the Khalifa Boukhalfa road in the capital. They then arrested a group of FIS leaders and officials at the headquarters.

According to some reports, the el-Rahma Mosque near the FIS headquarters was also closed. The reason for its closure is still not known.

FIS Decree Urges 'Dialogue'

LD0902130992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Abderrazak Radjem, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] information officer who has been sought by the security authorities since yesterday, signed statement No. 15, which was delivered to the radio station this morning, in which the FIS has renewed its well-known demands. It states, however, in the beginning of its statement that responsible and earnest dialogue is one of its foundations within its political effort, which is based on demanding and winning.

FIS Information Committee Head Arrested

LD1002082192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Following the announcement of the arrest of Mr. Abdelkader Moghni and Mr. Rebihi, today's issue of AL-KHABAR reported, based on Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] sources, news of the arrest of Mr. Abdelkader Radjem, the official in charge of the FIS' information committee. It is known that the latter was being pursued by the security services.

FIS Official on Party's 'Sedition'

LD0702210392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] An APS report has said that Cheikh Yakhlef Cherati, a member of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] national provisional executive bureau and the official responsible for the call and guidance committee, issued a statement this afternoon in which he warned the Algerian people about the dangers of deviations and pitfalls in the ranks of the FIS. He notes that some members of the national provisional executive bureau have abandoned the Koran and the Sunnah and have followed their whims by pushing the young men of the nation to bloodshed and by calling for them to have an armed confrontation with the Army and security forces.

Cheikh Yakhlef Cherrati's statement adds that these individuals—who yesterday encouraged the events in Batna and in the capital, and before that, in Guemar—are today repeating the same thing: calling the youth to what they have been calling jihad. What it amounts to is sedition to serve purely personal aims. This was a statement by Cheikh Yakhlef Cherrati, a member of the FIS national provisional executive bureau and the official responsible for the call and guidance committee.

Cherati Denies 'Deviation' From Koran

LD0802125992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Cheikh Yakhlef Cherati, one of the founders of the FIS, has denied that he had denounced the FIS' deviation from the book [Koran] and the sunnah [Muhammad's deeds and sayings] following the events of yesterday, Friday.

Cheikh Cherati condemned, in a statement received by national radio a short while ago, what he termed falsehoods and defamation following what APS attributed to him.

Haddam Resigns Higher State Council Membership

LD0702190192 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] It is now official: Paris Mosque rector Cheikh Tedjini Haddam has ended his political duties in Algeria.

Since the latest government changes he has been a member of the Higher State Council. Cheikh Haddam was received in Paris by Philippe Marghand, minister of the interior in charge of religious affairs, to whom he confirmed his decision.

Envoy Says Haddam Retains Post

LD0702234592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Ismail Hamdani, Algeria's ambassador to France, confirmed today that Tedjini Haddam, rector of the Paris Mosque, still retains his post on the Higher State Council. This confirmation came after the French interior minister issued a communique announcing that Cheikh Haddam had told him he was giving up his political duties in Algeria.

Mr. Hamdani said that this communique had caused confusion and that Cheikh Haddam, who is currently in Paris, is to return to Algeria tomorrow, when matters will become clearer.

Haddam Returns, Denies Resigning

LD0802200392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Upon his return to this country, Tedjini Haddam, member of the Higher State Council, made the following statement:

I have not resigned and I have no intention of abandoning my duties pertaining to the Higher State Council. Furthermore, I have been astonished by the attempts to cast doubt on my performance of my religious duties on the Committee for Religious Trusts and Islamic Holy Places and on my rectorship of the Islamic Institution of the Paris Mosque.

Islamic Organization Calls For Jihad

LD0902082692 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0630 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] An unknown Islamic organization, the Faithful to the Oath [Les Fideles du Serment], is reported to have yesterday proclaimed a jihad, or a religious war in Algeria.

Reportage on Violence, Clashes in Algiers

4 Killed, 10 Wounded

LD0802102392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Our colleague Abderahman Derif, who has just returned from Mustapha University Hospital in the capital, told us that the number of dead at the morgue in the hospital is four, three of whom died from their grave wounds [as heard].

The same source added that 10 are still receiving treatment for injuries of varying seriousness. The figures were provided by the hospital's administration.

Clashes Continue; Gunfire Heard

LD0802001592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The administration of the Mustafa Bacha University Hospital has announced that between 1500 and 1700 today it received more than 10 persons who were injured in the clashes that took place in the areas adjacent to the hospital between groups of young men and the public order forces. Two died in the hospital from their injuries.

The same source stated that all the injured in these incidents and who were received in the hospital's emergency room were suffering from bullet wounds.

Furthermore, clashes between the public order forces and groups of youths continued until 2000 this evening in Badar quarter and on Kouba Hill opposite the hospital. Shots were heard from time to time. In Bachjerrah, Laglasiaf—where the Army is still deployed—and Belcourt gunfire could still be heard.

Calm has returned to Harrach, Hocine Dey, and Scala, near Biyar. There are no details on the situation in Barrati and on the Constantine Bridge, where there was some tension this afternoon.

Bab-el Oued Imam Arrested

LD0802154192 Paris Europe No. 1 in French 1500 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The imam of the Bab-el Oued main mosque in Algiers has reportedly been arrested according to his family. Shots were heard this afternoon in several quarters of the Algerian capital, and fresh incidents have been reported near Batna and Tiaret.

No official result has been published concerning yesterday's violent clashes between the Islamists and the forces of order, but the latest figures given by Algerian newspapers and medical quarters speak of 33 dead and more than 100 wounded.

'Guarded Calm' Returns

LD0902083192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Following the tension witnessed in a number of quarters of Algiers last night and until the early hours of this morning, a guarded calm has returned this morning following scuffles between the security forces and groups of young demonstrators. No information whatsoever has reached us about such scuffles.

The same atmosphere prevailed across a number of the country's wilayas, a fact that has resulted in more people being killed or injured. [passage omitted]

City 'Calm'; 40 Dead Nationwide

LD1002082592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Following the recent events in some of the capital's quarters and other parts of the country, and which resulted, according to medical sources, in about 40 dead and more than 200 wounded, life returned to normal yesterday evening, Sunday. The situation is characterized by calm. The withdrawal of the security forces from the positions that they occupied to supervise and observe compliance with the law and stability in the capital has been noted.

APS reports that the general situation has returned to normal in the town of Batna following the events it witnessed during recent days.

On the other hand, officials at the capital's hospitals denied rumors that families of victims were requested to pay money for bodies to be given to them. The director of Mustafa Bacha University Hospital said it seems that the propagators of these rumors are not satisfied with pushing innocent people to their deaths but are attempting to torture their families even more.

Further on Violence, Casualties Nationwide

Clashes Break Out in Constantine

LD0702144492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The calm which characterized the situation in Constantine during the past two days did not last long. Today disturbances were renewed by the outbreak of skirmishes between the security forces and Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] supporters. Here are more details in this report which was filed a short while ago by correspondent Mohamed Esaleh Abousaker:

[Begin Abousaker recording] After the calm situation that prevailed in the town of Constantine over the past 24 hours, the situation suddenly became tense again after the Friday prayers and following renewed confrontations between the security forces and FIS supporters. The security forces used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, especially in the center of the city and in the Aouienat el-Foul quarter, which experienced the same situation last Friday.

At 1430 [1330 GMT] today the area of confrontation was extended to several other quarters and with the same amount of tension. On the other hand, our team tried to enter some of the areas which were experiencing these disturbances, but we were unable to do so because movement was difficult, and we were therefore unable to ascertain the losses and number of casualties resulting from these clashes.

As I am speaking to you, sporadic firing can be heard from time to time in many locations, especially Revolution Square and 1 November Square. [end recording]

'Hundreds' of Demonstrators March

LD0902150192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] In the east of the country, after a rather calm morning in Constantine, its seems that a demonstration is taking place. Noureddine Zerriche [name as heard]:

[Bendjoudi] The situation remains a bit tense in Constantine. Hundreds of people gathered half an hour ago at Martyrs Square to move in an impressive march toward Belouizdad Boulevard shouting slogans that have now become classic: For it we live, for it we die. This march, which is under way at this very moment, coincides with the burial of a 20-year-old man who died yesterday following the clashes that took place last Friday in Constantine.

For the moment there is no intervention by the security forces, which are still positioned near the central police headquarters and Benabdelmalek Stadium. One should add, however, that many shopkeepers have started to close their shops, and traffic remains disrupted. There will be further information in future reports. This is Chafik Bendjoudi from Constantine.

Clashes, Arrests in Annaba

LD0702184492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Following the series of reports from our correspondents about the disturbances in many of the governorates of the homeland after the Friday prayers today, here is a report on the tense atmosphere that dominated the city of Annaba:

[Unidentified correspondent] Skirmishes required the intervention of security men after the Friday prayers. Specifically, after the worshipers, most of whom were youths, left el-Forkane Mosque in the el-Jasr el-Abied quarter, they encountered security men at Ben Amiour Street, formerly La Colone. The crowd started shouting familiar slogans in addition to throwing stones at the security men. The security forces closed all exits and roads leading to Ibn Khaldun Steet and some roads branching from it. In the face of the demonstrators' determination, the security forces resorted to the use of tear gas grenadrs to disperse the crowds. They also apprehended some people for throwing stones at the security men.

It is worth pointing out that the skirmishes which took place today at Annaba are attributed to the fact that the imams of the el-Fourkane and el-Falah Mosques were arrested and replaced by two state imams.

Gunfire Heard in Badjerrah

LD0702183292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The wave of disturbances that characterized the situation today following the Friday prayers has engulfed many governorates. The radio station has received a number of reports filed by its correspondents. Here is a report from Badjerrah by our colleague Abdelmoumen Dekkar:

[Dekkar] Caution prevails here in Badjerrah and the surrounding areas. [passage omitted] The Friday prayers at the el-Nasr Mosque did not take place. There is little traffic on the roads except for military jeeps which move from time to time between the National People's Army units deployed across the major road between the municipalities of Badjerrah and Bourouba and some of the alleys of La Glaciere. The relative calm now prevailing is broken from time to time by the sound of bullets fired in the air by the military to disperse groups of youths who gathered in the narrow alleyways of the aforementioned areas straight after the end of Friday prayers.

In Bourouba we witnessed a medium-size procession in which those taking part were shouting Islamic Salvation Front slogans. In this atmosphere a military helicopter flew overhead, while at about 1430 we noticed the arrival of security reinforcements in the form of paratroopers. The situation is calm in Badjerrah but very cautious.

8 Arrested in Barika

LD0802211892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] It seems that the recent unrest in Batna has spread to Barika, where eight people have been arrested. One was carrying an automatic weapon and the others were armed with knives.

Sources from Tiaret Governorate report that an arson attack has been carried out against the governorate's headquarters, which has been completely gutted.

Automatic Weapons Fire Heard in Batna

LD0702145392 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] There is tension in Algeria today, Friday, the big prayer day. A big security operation has been put into effect in the traditional Islamic Salvation Front strongholds in Algiers, but the most violent events of the last few days took place in Batna, where tension is still high and where there have been many deaths over the last few days. Gerard Beaufils reports:

[Beaufils] Since the arrest last Tuesday of an imam accused of tendentious comments and using his mosque for political purposes, Batna has been swept by Islamic fever. [passage omitted] In an attempt to halt the clashes the police and the Army have been forced to use tanks in the districts of the old town, where calm has not yet completely returned this morning. At present sporadic bursts of automatic gunfire can be heard, and burning tires have been placed at crossroads. [passage omitted]

3 Reported Killed

LD0702202592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The first provisional results of this afternoon's clashes: six dead, including a gendarme, and 27 injured. Three persons were killed in Batna. One gendarme was killed and another injured in Focamarine, near Algiers. Two persons were killed and another 11 wounded in Medea. Four persons were injured in Saida and 11 in Bel Abbes, some of whom are said to be in serious condition. Finally, 40 people were arrested in Bordj el-Kifan and several dozen in Annaba, Saida, and Medea.

Calm has been restored almost everywhere, particularly in the west and the capital. Some pockets remain in Constantine, while the situation in Batna is still unstable.

Death Toll Reaches 11

LD0702200592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] What was feared has taken place. An atmosphere of extreme tension has prevailed in some quarters of Algiers following the Friday prayers which did, however, take place in peace. It was only after religious duties were carried out that there were demonstrations which quickly became clashes with the security forces.

Incidents have also been reported in some large towns in the country. The most important incidents, however, were concentrated in Constantine and Batna. In Constantine, it should be said that the situation is becoming calmer this evening. In Batna, hospital sources have reported one more death, bringing the list of casualties in the clashes to 21. It should be recalled that the official death toll is 11.

Let us look at all this in detail with our correspondent [name indistinct]. First, in the capital, in Bab el-Oued, the day has been quite calm. However, incidents have been reported in various other places.

[Correspondent] Yes, you are right. Several incidents were reported after Friday prayer in various quarters of the capital, particularly in Kouba, el-Harrach, Hussein Dey, Belcourt, Barrati, Bourouba, Eucalyptus, and Bordj el-Kifan. The main hot spots were near the La Montagne quarter in (Bachjarah), in Belcourt, and in Hocine Dey, where troublemakers attempted to set up barricades of burning tires. The security forces had to resort to the use of weapons to try to break these barricades. They also had to intervene in Bordj el-Kifan to dismantle the barricades set up in the main road by about 800 people. In addition, they intervened around the mosque in the Clair-Matin quarter to put an end to a sermon considered to be contrary to the new measures concerning places of worship.

In Kouba, in a trial of strength lasting more than two hours, the riot police clashed with several hundred worshipers who remained inside the Ibn Badis Mosque following a call by the imam for a sit-in. After warning shots were fird to disperse crowds outside the mosque, the worshipers finally came out. It seems, however, that the young Islamic Salvation Front activist who read out Communique No. 14 condemning the Batna events was not arrested.

In el-Harrach, the security forces also had to use their weapons when stones were thrown at them by dozens of people. A group of our journalists covering the events were attacked by several people with beards, four of whom drove away in a car belonging to the radio station.

Finally, shots werre heard less than an hour ago near 1 May Square and Belouizdad Street.

[Announcer] The police in Algiers Province say that people have been injured. No number has been given and more details will undoubtedly be provided in the coming hours.

'Scuffles' in Bechar

LD0702194592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tension has spread across a number of governorates. The following is a report from Bechar:

[Unidentified correspondent] Immediately after the carrying out of the Friday prayers in el-Dabdaba district—one of the main working-class districts of Bechar and a stronghold of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]—FIS supporters staged a demonstration which quickly turned into a disorderly riot. This warranted the intervention of the security forces in el-Nour quarter and on Saadli Belkheir Avenue.

When we arrived where the disturbances were taking place, we saw stones being thrown at the security forces, who responded with tear gas and shots into the air. Scuffles are still continuing in the area.

The security forces arrested a number of people who took part in this afternoon's demonstrations, and they are still blocking the main roads leading to and from el-Nour quarter and Saadli Belkhier Avenue.

Security Forces Open Fire in Kenchela

LD0702164692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Today's Friday prayers in Kenchela were not like previous ones, for many quarters of this city have witnessed disturbances which were mostly, according to eyewitnesses, bloody, clashes between crowds of worshipers and the security forces, which used gunfire and tear gas to disperse demonstrators. According to what we learned from the correspondent of SOIR D'ALGERIE, the hot spots of these confrontations were in particular at the popular quarters of Bouzidi, Hasnaoui, and Marito. Still according to the same source, the disturbances calmed somewhat before the call for the afternoon prayers, as demonstrators retreated to their quarters, thereby allowing the security forces to return to their barracks. We will return to the outcome of all these disturbances with all the developments when we are able to reach the source of the news—the national gendarmerie command for Kenchela Province. I point out that I am at the moment in Kies Department, which is about 20 km to the west of the provincial capital and where the situation is very ordinary.

2 Killed, 15 Injured in Clashes

LD0702192892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The situation in Khenchela was tense after the Friday prayers. According to information from the authorities concerned, confrontations in the city left two persons dead and 15 injured among the ranks of the demonstrators. The situation later began to return to normal.

We continue to monitor the situation and will report developments to you in due course.

Setif Governorate Officials Arrested

LD1002131592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Talk is now rife in the Setif Governorate about a series of arrests, but complete calm is noted there. Here is a dispatch from our correspondent Faisal Ghames:

[Ghamses] Informed sources at the Setif Governorate Popular Council have stated that a number of officials were arrested over the past two days, including the president of the governorate's Popular Council and a member of the council for the constituency of (el-Eulma).

According to the same sources, it is not known where the council's president has been or what he is charged with.

Other sources affirmed that the president of Setif municipality was arrested yesterday although he has been on sick leave for four weeks. Two of his deputies were also arrested.

The Society of the Cry of Youth, a local society concerned with the state of unemployed youth, confirmed reports of the arrest of its president Saturday evening. They said that they today asked the governorate's governor to release him on the grounds that the society was apolitical and that its president had nothing to do with the events of last Friday.

It remains to be said that it is very difficult to obtain information from official sources despite our repeated contacts with the quarters concerned, including those of the governorate. It should also be noted that calm prevails in Setif and its regions.

Clashes in Sidi Bel Abbes

LD0702165492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The center of the city of Sidi Bel Abbes was the stage for skirmishes between sympathizers of the Islamic Salvation Front and the security forces. Immediately after the conclusion of the Friday prayers, and in the courtyard of the Abu Bakr Mosque in the city center, several youths came out chanting the familiar slogans of the FIS, and then they began to throw stones at the security forces. Within a few minutes the city center was surrounded by the security forces. At present the skirmishes are taking place in Prince Abdelkader quarter and Prince Abdelkader Square.

The procession launched following the Friday prayers by the supporters of the FIS started from some mosques in the city center. The security forces intervened to disperse the crowds, which consisted primarily of youths and children. This resulted in clashes in which the demonstrators resorted to the throwing of stones and bottles, while the security forces used tear gas. The main roads and streets of the city are now in a state of siege. Patrolling them is also difficult because of the barricades erected by the demonstrators. It is noticeable that the

fever of tension began to rise with [words indistinct] to affect several quarters of the city.

'Intense' Clashes in Taher

LD0802180792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] As for the general situation in the homeland, we have received a report from our correspondent in Jijel, in which he said that the general situation in Taher has become tenser.

[Unidentified correspondent] For almost the last two hours the town of Taher has been witnessing intense confrontations between demonstrators who are supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front on one side, and security forces on the other. The security forces resorted to the use of tear gas grenades to disperse the crowds and fired shots in the air. These incidents, which paralyzed traffic, made it difficult for schoolchildren to reach their homes.

The incidents came in the wake of the trial of two imams who were accused of instigating demonstrations. The investigation ended in the release of one of them and the remand of the other in preventive detention. Because it is difficult to move about, it is very hard for us to give you any more details on the final outcome of these confrontations. We shall attempt to report on them later.

300 Attack Tipasa Police Patrol

LD0602211792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Report by Nacire Ait Saleh]

[Text] About 20 areas throughout the homeland experienced disturbances today. The common factor featured one scenario: the formation of groups, ranging from 50 to 500 persons, in various areas following the Friday prayers and who later dispersed to erect roadblocks and barricades and to set rubber tires on fire in an attempt to block the roads. Such actions occurred, for example, in some parts of the capital of Algiers and in Constantine, Bel Abbes, Oran, and other places.

Thus, Friday was characterized by disturbances. According to informed sources, FIS elements—led in many instances by members of municipal councils—staged gatherings and processions which led to interventions by security forces to disperse them.

For example, at (Foukmarin) in Tipasa Wilaya, a group of about 300 people attacked a national gendarmerie patrol with bladed and automatic weapons. One gendarme was killed and another was seriously wounded.

In (el-Raqi) two policemen were hit by gunfire.

We have not yet received any information about casualties among the demonstrators.

The FIS seems to be throwing all its weight into the streets to involve the maximum number of citizens. In general, however, citizens stayed away from these disturbances. In Bir Khadem, for example, citizens themselves removed the barricades.

Today's events show that the FIS has taken a new step and entered a dangerous stage with a view to annulling the authority of the state. We have learned from the security forces that they are determined to safeguard security and to reassure citizens, whatever the circumstances.

We wish to apologize to our viewers for not being able to show more footage or to provide more details about the disturbances and incidents that took place today in areas of the capital. This is due to the fact that our TV teams were subjected to physical attacks this evening by a group of demonstrators who beat up our photographer and seized his film.

Stability Restored in Western Region

LD0902173192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] With regard to the situation in the western areas of the homeland, we have received this report: Most of the governorates in the western parts of the country have been calm since yesterday, in the wake of Friday's tense situation. Here is a roundup of events:

Oran Governorate: The incidents were not serious. There were 75 arrests, and 55 people were referred to the courts.

Sidi Bel Abbes Governorate: The governor's office reports that there were 136 arrests; 14 people were injured, including five members of the security forces; and a 20-year-old youth died.

Tlemcen Governorate: According to reports from the governor's office, between 500 and 700 people took part in demonstrations. There were 120 arrests; 45 persons were released, while 80 others were referred to the courts on charges of instigation. [figures as heard] These included the president of the Municipal People's Council of Sebdou and Tlemcen. There were also 12 persons injured, most of them by tear gas. A member of the security forces received knife wounds. The Tlemcen Governorate authorities refuted reports that the town's law courts were set on fire.

Relizane Governorate: Our correspondent reports that 44 arrests were recorded. Two people were killed, one of whom was a 10-year-old boy.

Imam Mohamed Ben Aych, a successful Islamic Salvation Front candidate in the first round of the legislative elections, appeared in court in Oran yesterday on charges of instigating disorder, disobeying the governor's orders, and insulting public bodies.

Entire Country Reported 'Calm'

LD0802115592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Calm has returned to the wilayas of the whole homeland, which yesterday witnessed disturbances following the Friday prayers which have left a number dead and injured. No official total of casualties has yet been issued.

The Algerian news agency team patrolling the quarters of Badjerrah, el-Harrach, Constantine Bridge, and Montagne noticed that the road linking Constantine Bridge and el-Harrach is closed to traffic due to the erected barriers, especially in the quarter of Montagne, where a concentration of Army elements was seen.

The team also noticed on the spot the closure of the Oued Ouchaia tunnel to traffic, and also smoke bellowing in the lower streets of the Badjerrah quarter from tires set on fire. The main road in this quarter remains open, and various businesses are closed. [passage omitted]

Socialist Forces Leader Rejects Use of Force

LD1002090892 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0800 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] In the opinion of opposition figure Hocine Ait Ahmed, the authorities are mistaken; they do not realize the depth of the discontent, particularly among the youth. Here is the president of the Socialist Forces Front, who spoke on the phone to Vincent Giolitto:

[Begin Ait Ahmed recording] This measure will not solve the problems. The halting of the democratic process will really open the gates to the confrontation-repression cycle, which is spreading and getting worse.

Besides, the scope of the opposition has nothing in common with the influence and goals of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. Opposition is spreading to wide segments of the youth because young people are infuriated by the social crisis and injustice and are driven to despair by economic promises and electoral deadlines which have not been met since October 1988. This is a dangerous process. I believe that there is still time, if common sense can prevail, to open a dialogue, to take steps to clean up the political situation, and to ease the social climate. I believe that... [changes thought] in any case, this is the language that we are using; we keep repeating that political issues cannot be solved through the use of force. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Denies Possibility of Civil War

LD0802112192 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Beirut, 08/02/92 (APS)—"Risks of a civil war in Algeria are excluded" the foreign affairs minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, declared in talks released on Friday by the Lebanese paper AL-DIYAR and made in connection with works of the Non-Aligned ministerial conference which was held in Cyprus. The head of the Algerian diplomacy pointed out that "arrests are carried out in conformity with law" and that "nobody is arrested for his belonging to a given party." "Mistakes made during the three last years are the result, according to him, of the precipitation in the establishment of democracy without neither fixing the definition nor defining the identity of the society to which we aspire."

Regarding a possible Lebanisation of Algeria, Brahimi was to point out that "risks of a civil war were excluded" adding that "we are convinced to have overcome this risk. The launching of a civil war starts most of the time, according to him with the division of the people which resorted then to fratricidal armed revolt, which is not the case in Algeria." "There is no comparison, according to him, between the situation in Lebanon and what is taking place in Algeria, the situation in Algeria is then different since the state is working for imposing its authority at the time when some peoples are perpetrating condemnable acts." It is why, he said, "measures are taken against these individuals," as he noted that there is no problem of parties or of tendencies." "We are convinced of it, because we know very well our country and our people and reactions of ones and the others clearly prove it."

The head of diplomacy indicated that "no sign augurs the repetition of October 1988 events and June 1991, two weeks already passed since the change in Algeria and no violent reaction was registered, as the one preceding the ones preceding October events." On June, there was an appeal and a position of a party, but today the state is decided to firmly enforce law." Brahimi recalled that the action of authorities aims at "the protection of citizens in order to preserve security of persons and the integrity of the country, public and individual liberties." "Authorities are also working for creating adequate conditions for "the establishment of an effective democracy and peace."

Concerning the vision of new authorities in Algeria as to the question of democracy of pluralism, Brahimi said "everybody says in Algeria that the establishment of democracy will put an end to the regime of the unique party, what would enable also the development of a free press." "Parties of opposition and the other ones and even the Army, he said, aspire to a change of the economic system." On another turn, the head of the Algerian diplomacy was to note that "in Algeria all the sides reached an accord," precising that "the attempt made three years ago had negative and positive effects from which the deadlock we find ourselves today." This situation is, according to him, the result of mistakes whose responsibility is shared. "I believe that we have drawn a very important lesson and that we have to keep it in mind at any moment."

Egypt

Source Denies Involvement in Gates Mission

NC0802065692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—A responsible source has said that Egypt has nothing whatsoever to do with a NEW YORK TIMES report, published today, that the director of the U.S. CIA is currently visiting Middle East states to inform regional intelligence agencies about a joint operation to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to MENA, the source said that Egypt's policy on these matters is clear: It does not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab or foreign country. Egypt adheres to its principles, which are based on respect for the will of the people.

Alleged Spy Said To Make 'Full Confessions'

NC0902150892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The Israeli spy Faris Subhi Misrati, who was recently arrested by the security organs in Cairo, along with his daughter Fayiqah, has admitted he is an agent for Israeli intelligence (Mosad), and that he came to Egypt to collect information on military and strategic targets and public figures.

This was announced today by Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. He said that the spy, who is a Jew of Libyan origin, has made full confessions before the Higher State Security Prosecution about his activities and those of his daughter, and the purpose behind renting a furnished apartment in the al-Nuzhah area in Heliopolis, where he was arrested after having visited Egypt several times under the pretext of tourism.

Syrian Prime Minister Attends Joint Meeting

Arrives in Cairo

NC0702143192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official four-day visit at the invitation of the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who was on hand to greet him at the airport.

Al-Zu'bi will deliver a message to President Husni Mubarak from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and he and Sidqi will chair the meeting of the Joint Egyptian-Syrian Higher Committee due to open tomorrow.

The Syrian prime minister is accompanied by an official ministerial delegation comprising Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Dr. Kamal Sharaf, minister of higher education; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Transportation Minister Yusuf Ahmad; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Industry Minister Antoine Jubran; Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; and Finance Minister Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini.

Praises Syrian-Egyptian Ties

NC0702162892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity in general, and Egyptian-Syrian cohesion in particular, at the time when the Arab cause is facing Israeli intransigence regarding a just and comprehensive peace in the area.

In a press statement upon his arrival in Cairo today, al-Zu'bi stressed his country's desire to enhance cooperation with Egypt, noting the historic relations between the two peoples and the Syrian people's appreciation of the noble Egyptian Arab people, who take interest in various Arab issues.

Al-Zu'bi expressed his confidence that the meeting of the Joint Egyptian-Syrian Higher Committee will produce positive results for the two countries. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that Egyptian-Syrian cooperation is an important brick in the structure of Arab cooperation and its promotion will reflect on other areas in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sidqi said he expects a great progress in Egyptian-Syrian relations, noting that Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad have affirmed the importance of strengthening integration and ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Convenes

NC0802150992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Feb 92

[From "The World on the Air" program]

[Text] The Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee, chaired by the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, convened today.

Following today's session, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made the following statement:

[Begin al-Sharif recording] Most importantly, these talks reflected the two countries' interest in pursuing this joint historic process that brings integration on political, economic, and cultural levels. It is the continuation of a historic process, which shows that whenever Cairo and Damascus achieve coordination and integration, it serves the two peoples and the entire Arab nation.

Foremost of the topics discussed were Egypt's and Syria's stands on international changes and their impact on the Arab region and the Middle East; and the peace process, beginning with the Madrid conference, various developments, the Arab position, and the two countries' concern for unifying the Arab nation, so it can benefit from these world changes and develop the ability to deal with these changes—which require an Arab stand, political presence, and regimes capable of dealing with these changes.

In bilateral cooperation, the economic situation was discussed, including cooperation in all fields to expand trade and help the two countries' central banks settle and organize various financial matters. Discussion also dealt with chambers of commerce in both countries and their service to private and public business sectors, and the promotion of Egyptian and Syrian goods to serve trade exchange.

Concerning industry and agriculture, the higher committee praised the cooperation in this area and made several recommendations to propel this successful coordinated effort. We hope there will be more of this agricultural and industrial cooperation and integration between the two countries.

Talks covered several topics in various employment areas—including the exchange of experts; training; and other aspects, such as construction, housing, and setting up joint construction companies—and in the fields of transportation and communications, whether maritime or air transport or cooperation for Egyptian shipyards to build tugs for Syrian ports. Discussion also dealt with meeting fraternal Syria's railroad equipment needs, including cargo and passenger cars and spare parts.

In the information and culture areas, discussion covered several issues relating to joint production; the exchange of newsletters; activation of the Egyptian Space Channel and utilizing its programs; cooperation in organizing information and cultural weeks; setting up joint exhibitions; and cooperation in arts, cinema, theater, and other issues. [end recording]

Peace Talks Viewed

NC0802184792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee resumed its third session this evening.

The committee opened its meetings at the Prime Ministry this morning, chaired by the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said after the meeting that Dr. Sidqi spoke at the outset of the meeting about the importance of Egyptian-Syrian integration to support Arab action, noting that cohesion between Cairo and Damascus means strength for the Arab nation.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi also spoke about the Middle East situation and the peace process. He referred to the obstacles Israel created during the various stages of the peace negotiations by raising peripheral issues contradicting the spirit of peace which is based on justice and harmonious with international legitimacy.

Al-Sharif said that Dr. Sidqi and al-Zu'bi spoke about international developments and their impact on the Middle East and the Arab region, which require the two countries to engage in further and continuous coordination and consultation.

Al-Sharif added that Sidqi affirmed at the meeting that Egypt fully understands the stand of its sister, Syria, on the peace talks beginning with the Madrid conference up to the multilateral talks. He noted the sincere cooperation between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad to achieve the interests of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

Al-Sharif said the meeting was fruitful and reflects the two countries' concern for working jointly, especially in economic cooperation. The committee praised cooperation in the information, cultural, educational, scientific research, organization, and administration fields and recommended that this cooperation be consolidated. The information minister said the Syrian prime minister expressed appreciation for the Egyptian experts' efforts in all fields.

Musa Stresses Land for Peace Principle

NC0902152892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with the U.S. charge d'affaires and discussed the bilateral peace talks scheduled to be held in Washington this month, the peace process, and Egyptian-U.S. relations. He also met with Nasir Qaddurah, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed with him the peace process, the regional situation, and Israel's intransigence.

Musa stressed that Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights is the basis for achieving peace in the region, in addition to the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace principle.

Musa said he will leave for Riyadh on Tuesday to head the Egyptian delegation to the Joint Egyptian-Saudi Committee meeting. He added that a number of agreements on Egyptian-Saudi cooperation will be signed during the meeting.

Closing Statement Issued

NC1002074292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee began its closing session under the

chairmanship of the prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and the Syrian prime minister, Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, at the Egyptian cabinet headquarters this evening.

The two prime ministers met briefly at the Egyptian prime minister's office before joining the delegations in the cabinet meeting hall.

At the 30-minute closing session, agreements and protocols regulating cooperation between the two countries were signed. An agreement on air transportation was signed, which will facilitate procedures and increase flights in order to make travel between the two nations easier. Additionally, the transport of commodities will be sped up in accordance with the provisions of the international air transport agreement. The agreement also provides for insuring aircraft and facilitating [word indistinct] flights.

Two protocols were also signed: One for an agricultural quarantine to protect the two countries from agricultural diseases that sometimes accompany imported agricultural seeds and foods; the other for a veterinary quarantine to protect animal resources against veterinary diseases and to prevent the entry of diseased animals.

The air transport agreement was signed by Fu'ad Sultan, Egyptian minister of tourism and civil aviation, and by the Syrian transportation minister, Engineer Yusuf al-Ahmad. The two protocols were signed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and by Muhammad Ghabbash, Syrian minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

In its closing statement, signed by the prime ministers this evening, the Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee expressed its satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation and with the political consultations that are conducted on all levels within the framework of the instructions of Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad.

The committee recommended that cooperation and consultations continue and deepen, so that the two countries may eventually reach the stage of coordinating their stands on all issues that concern the Arab nation.

The committee also recommended that the two countries' Foreign Ministries agree on a framework for cooperation and coordination.

In its statement, the committee emphasized that the economic and technical cooperation program will continue, calling on businessmen and investors in both countries to establish more joint ventures.

The committee expressed its (?desire) that the volume of trade increase, and that any obstacles hampering the implementation of the $200 million deal previously signed between the two countries be eliminated.

The committee recommended that more flexibly be shown in concluding contracts on products mentioned in the list of commodities, that a study be carried out to add new commodities to the list, and that pending financial claims between the two countries be resolved.

The committee also recommended that efforts be increased to expand industrial cooperation and to replace foreign expertise with national expertise in the two countries. The joint committee for industrial coordination will hold a meeting within three months to prepare industrial integration projects.

The committee expressed its satisfaction with steps taken in the agricultural field; the fields of utilizing and exploiting water resources; and in the development of irrigation, reservoir, and dam projects.

The group decided that cooperation should continue in linking the nations' electrical networks and in defining (?programs) for the technical training of Syrians in the operation and maintenance of generating plants in Egypt. It also decided that cooperation should continue in the local manufacture of electrical equipment, spare parts, and electric meters required by Syria. Cooperation should also continue, it added, in the utilization of natural gas and energy and in the development of petroleum, gas, mineral resources, and petrochemical industries.

The statement indicated that the two sides were satisfied with the positive results achieved in the fields of transportation and communications. It noted that passengers travel by ship between Alexandria and Latakia, and that in addition to transporting commodities, ships transported approximately 22,000 passengers in 38 trips between the two ports in 1991.

The committee recommended that establishing a joint company for the maritime transportation of passengers and cargo be studied, and that studies be carried out to establish whether Egypt can provide Syrian with Egyptian-produced passenger cars and spare parts for its railroads.

The committee also recommended that obstacles facing Egyptian and Syrian students enrolling in the nations' universities be eliminated and that terms and acceptance dates for 1992-1993 be announced early.

The committee recommended that the joint tourism committee meet during the second quarter of 1992 to draw up a program to implement the tourism cooperation agreement signed in December 1990.

The committee expressed its satisfaction with existing cooperation in the information field. It recommended that radio and television reports be exchanged, that official celebrations between the two countries be broadcast, that both countries show interest in each other's television news reports broadcast via Arabsat, that the two countries cooperate in receiving the programs of the Egyptian Space Channel and in setting up information weeks in each other's country, and that the respective information offices cooperate in covering important events.

[Words indistinct] the committee recommended that [words indistinct] specifications [words indistinct] and

the two countries exchange expertise in the fields of health, preventive medicine to combat epidemics, vaccination campaigns, environmental health, medical treatment, and nursing. It also recommended that the medical sciences be Arab-ized, that Egypt continue to export medicines to Syria, and that the two countries cooperate in the field of blood banks and in joint production of blood derivatives, serums, and vaccines.

The committee recommended continued efforts for one-on-one cooperation between the following universities in both countries: Damascus and Tanta Universities, Tishrin and Alexandria Universities, and Ba'th and Suez Canal Universities.

In the cultural arena, the committee recommended continued bilateral participation in book fairs; painting and sculpture exhibitions; and folklore, film, theatrical, and musical festivals.

The committee proposed that an agreement be reached on addressing the needs of citizens from one country who work in the other. The committee also recommended that an agreement be signed for technical cooperation in the areas of labor, industrial safety, training, and manpower planning.

The committee also urged that a visit exchange program among officials working in the areas of youth and sports be concluded.

The committee recommended that the two sides exchange information in the areas of religious mortmain, religious affairs, and training of preachers, and cooperate to revive the Arab and Islamic heritage, build Islamic centers, and repair mosques. The committee also urged bilateral cooperation to tackle extremism and deviation.

The Egyptian side proposed studying the formation of a joint body of Egyptian and Syrian businessmen to increase trade. It reviewed practical measures taken by businessmen in both countries to increase cooperation to serve the interests of both countries to increase trade through the protocol concerning the (?formation) of an Egyptian-Syrian Business Council.

The committee recommended that the Business Council help set up joint projects that can be financed by businessmen in both countries as well as by investors from other Arab countries.

The two sides agreed to hold the fourth session of the Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee in Damascus next July.

Mubarak Receives al-Z'ubi

NC1002112692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis before private talks with al-Zu'bi, attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Afterward, al-Zu'bi said that he and his delegation were pleased to meet President Mubarak, with whom they discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation. Both sides, he said, reviewed the outcome of Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee meetings, noting their progress and the signing of agreements and protocols.

The Syrian prime minister said that they reviewed the Arab and international situation, and the peace process and Syria's position on it. Al-Z'ubi said that Syria seeks a comprehensive and just peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, which endorse the principle of land for peace. He added that the two sides discussed Arab and international issues, on which they concurred.

German Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

Arrives in Cairo

NC0402184992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—German Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg and his delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a four-day visit to Egypt, at the invitation of the defense minister, General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi. The German minister will hold talks with Gen. Tantawi on bolstering and promoting bilateral cooperation in security and defense. [passage omitted]

Meets Mubarak

NC0502131892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received German Defense Minister Dr. Gerhard Stoltenberg at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Stoltenberg said that he and President Mubarak discussed developments in Europe, especially in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. These developments, he added, require West European and EC institutions to be strengthened and cooperation to be increased between Germany and its neighbors and between Germany and Egypt. The need for this, he noted, was apparent in Egypt's large and important role in the region's stability during the Gulf crisis.

He said that he and the president discussed developments in North Africa and the Gulf region. He also praised Egyptian-German relations.

Economic reform in Egypt, he said, will attract more investments from Western countries, including Germany. He said that cultural and scientific ties between Egypt and Germany are developing and that military cooperation continues, particularly in training, instruction, and provision of services. He added that he will hold discussions on improving military relations with officials while he is here.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1021 GMT on 5 February, in a Cairo-datelined report] Adds: "The German defense minister was asked about the latest developments of the crisis surrounding the export of Czechoslovak tanks to Syria and whether Germany was going to release the tanks. I believe that a full announcement on this matter was made in Bonn, he said, adding: The Czechoslovak authorities decided to export tanks to Syria, and that is their prerogative. What disturbed us, he continued, is that the shipment was sent without the German Government's knowledge. A German vessel loaded some of these tanks at the Polish port of Szczecin without obtaining the necessary approval, he added, which compelled the German Navy to intercept the ship and request that it return to port, which it did. The legal authorities will take the necessary measures. Asked if this means that the German Navy will intercept any vessel carrying arms to Syria, the German defense minister said that he does not believe that any other German ship will do anything similar after what happened."]

Addresses Welcoming Ceremony

NC0502202092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—A session of Egyptian-German military talks chaired by the defense minister, General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, and German Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, was held at Defense Ministry Headquarters before noon today.

Prior to the talks, an official reception ceremony was given for the German minister, who arrived in Cairo yesterday evening for a four-day visit at Gen. Tantawi's invitation.

At the outset of the session, Gen. Tantawi gave a speech welcoming the German defense minister's visit, which is evidence of the strong ties between the two countries, their joint work to support friendship among the peoples, and their joint cooperation for the good of mankind.

The defense minister said Egypt looks forward to playing a positive role, along with Germany, in military cooperation to achieve international security and stability, especially in regions that witness regional conflicts, such as the Middle East.

Gen. Tantawi saluted Germany's role in establishing military equilibrium in these regions and its efforts in the international community to remove weapons of mass destruction and prevent nuclear arms proliferation. He said: This is also what we are trying to achieve, so peace will prevail in the region and the world.

He referred to President Mubarak's initiative to remove all types of weapons of mass destruction from the region and to make it a nuclear-free zone.

Concluding his speech, the defense minister expressed hope that the talks would help promote fruitful cooperation in various fields to establish security and peace in this region, so that its people will direct their efforts to development, [illegible] contribute to the prosperity of mankind, and achieve sovereignty over their territories.

For his part, the German defense minister said he was pleased that President Mubarak received him this morning. He said he listened to the president's briefing on the situation and developments in the Middle East and Africa, the latest developments since the Gulf war, and the policy of stability and cooperation to overcome tension in the region.

He emphasized that Egypt enjoys high credibility in international circles.

He said he reviewed with President Mubarak the situation in Europe and the dramatic changes in East Europe, that had great a impact on Europe and the world. He said his country hopes to develop cooperation with Egypt in various political, military, and economic spheres.

The German minister noted that there are prospects for cooperation between Egypt and Germany in training areas and that his country is willing to receive large numbers of Egyptian officers for training in Germany.

At the conclusion of his address, Stoltenberg spoke about the difficulties facing the German Defense Ministry regarding the number of troops, especially since German unification and the end of the cold war and East-West confrontation.

Attending the talks on the Egyptian side were the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Salah Halabi; commanders of the main branches; the assistant minister of defense; the assistant chief of staff; head of the Armament Corps; and the Defense Ministry secretary general. The German side included members of the delegation accompanying the defense minister on his visit to Egypt and the German ambassador to Egypt.

Defense Minister Views Military Ties

NC0502203392 Cairo MENA in English 1217 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, Feb 5 (MENA)—Minister of Defence General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said that his talks today with his German counterpart Gerhard Stoltenberg dealt with all matters related to military relations between the two countries. He added that the talks achieved good results, as the two sides exchanged viewpoints concerning the issues of interest to the two countries and the region.

Asked whether the talks dealt with joint military industrialisation, Gen. Tantawi said that despite the restrictions imposed by Germany in this respect the talks were very encouraging and there was progress in some aspects. Asked whether the talks dealt with the issue of getting rid of some east German weapons after the unification of Germany, the Egyptian minister of defence said that this

point was discussed and good results were achieved, particularly that Germany is suffering from this problem.

However, this does not mean that they will get rid of these weapons without restrictions, he said adding that most of the weapons which the German side wants to get rid of will not be useful, as they are outdated.

General Tantawi said that agreement was reached on the formation of a technical committee to follow up the discussion of military cooperation between the two countries in the light of the outcome of the talks. Asked whether Germany is ready to supply some civilian products for the Egyptian Armed Forces, the minister of defence said that this is a pure economic issue and is subject to the law of supply and demand. There is no problem in this respect, he added. On Germany's stance towards the removal of mass destruction weapons from the Middle East region and President Mubarak's initiative in this respect, General Tantawi said that Germany agrees to this initiative as the advanced world approved it and Germany enjoys an international weight and is bound by good relations with the states of the region.

Stoltenberg Comments

NC0502212192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—At a news conference this evening, the German defense minister, Dr. Gerhard Stoltenberg, praised President Husni Mubarak's policy. He also expressed satisfaction with and appreciation of the course of relations between Egypt and Germany.

Stoltenberg said that he listened with pleasure to President Husni Mubarak's assessment of the situation in the Gulf and North Africa this morning, saying it was of great value. He added that he told President Mubarak that Germany shares Egypt's desire that the current dialogue between the Arab states and Israel will lead to concrete results, a more stable situation, and elimination of regional tension. He explained that this dialogue must continue because it is in the region's interest.

Stoltenberg said he and Mubarak discussed bilateral relations, stressing that there are no problems between the countries, and he urged strengthening their good relations in all areas. [passage omitted]

Underlining Egypt's important role during the Gulf crisis, Stoltenberg said Egypt is a factor of stability in the Middle East. He noted that Egypt's policy is in line with UN resolutions aimed at improving the atmosphere in the region. [passage omitted]

Regarding military cooperation, Stoltenberg said cooperation exists, especially in the exchange of information, visits by officers, training, and military education. He added that he informed the Egyptian defense minister that future expansion of this cooperation is possible, including training Egyptian officers in German military academies.

Stoltenberg said he offered a mobile military hospital to Egypt, adding that experts from the two sides will discuss how to implement this offer. [passage omitted]

Further on Seized Tank Shipment

LD0502142792 Hamburg DPA in German 1315 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo (DPA)—German ships will transport no more weapons to Syria, in the view of Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg. At the same time, speaking in Cairo on Wednesday, he stressed that the Federal Navy had been obliged to intercept the Godewind, which had on board 16 T-72 tanks from the CSFR, bound for Syria. The German shipping company did not have the necessary permit under the weapons control law. Prague alone is responsible for the supply of a total of 250 tanks to Syria. After the weapons were intercepted by the Federal Navy in the Mediterranean, diplomatic ill-feeling arose between Bonn and Damascus.

After a talk with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Stoltenberg and his counterpart, Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, stressed the need for increased cooperation. Both sides agreed to set up a "technical committee", which would discuss questions of detail. Tantawi expressed the hope that Germany would play a positive role in the efforts to achieve security and stability in the world, especially in the crisis areas of the Middle East.

Stoltenberg made it clear, however, that military cooperation with Egypt would continue to be restricted primarily to the exchange of information and the training of Egyptian officers in the Bundeswehr. At present, around 10 officers a year are being trained in the Federal Republic, he said. The training program could still be expanded, he added.

Tantawi confirmed that the talks also covered the subject of weapons from the former National People's Army (NVA) of the GDR. Cairo, however, is not interested in them, since they are mainly antiquated, he said. During the Gulf crisis, Bonn made 30 NVA poison gas testing vehicles available to Egypt. During recent months, there has been discontent among Arabs over the illegal supply of such weapons for test purposes to Israel.

Stoltenberg intends to learn first hand in Egypt about the future security structure in the region. An Arab security order for the Gulf region, planned a year ago, did not come about after the Gulf war, after the Gulf states had moved even closer to the West. The United States, Syria, and Egypt thereafter removed their troops from the region.

Mauritania

State Releases 30 Oppositionists as 'Appeasement'

AB0702183092 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Some 30 opposition members detained on 26 January following postelection incidents in Nouadhibou,

in the west of the country, and whose trial should have begun tomorrow, have been released as a gesture of appeasement. This gesture of appeasement on the part of Mauritanian authorities comes after the holding of the national congress of the Union of Democratic Forces, UFD, the main opposition party in Mauritania. This party intended to put forward a certain number of conditions including the release of political detainees before participating in the electoral process. Salem Mesbour Salem has the details:

[Begin Salem recording] The Union of Democratic Forces demands as a condition for participating in the upcoming legislative elections the immediate and unconditional release of two Nouadhibou regional officials and their supporters—making a total of 27 persons—and the restoration of public freedom in regard to meetings, rallies, and demonstrations. These public freedoms have been suspended since 26 January. The UFD regional office in the economic capital, Nouadhibou, has even been closed since that date.

The UFD is also demanding the establishment of an independent commission to ensure fairer legislative elections. This commission should immediately embark on the revision of the voters register. The national congress of the UFD, the main opposition party in Mauritania, is also demanding the postponement of parliamentary elections to enable all opposition parties to be better prepared.

In another resolution, the UFD said it favored the unity of action of all opposition parties in Mauritania. It also condemned the cases of torture by the Nouakchott authorities of UFD supporters who were arrested in Nouadhibou, the economic capital, after the bloody riots of 26 January. [end recording]

Sudan

'Violent Demonstrations' in Omdurman, Khartoum

JN0802181492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Our London correspondent Huda al-Husayni says that demonstrations are currently taking place in the Sudanese cities of Omdurman, Khartoum, and Gharbi [placename as heard].

The most violent demonstrations are in Omdurman, specifically in the al- Thawrah and al-'Ardah quarters. In Khartoum, demonstrations are being staged in the al-Sahafah and Burri areas. The demonstrations began at 0800, were accompanied by leaflets calling for a popular revolution, and were signed by the Committee for Defending Democracy [hay'at al-difa' 'an al-dimukratiyah], who asked the people to take up arms.

Military Setting Up Revolutionary Guards Corps

NC0802071392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Well-informed Sudanese sources yesterday disclosed that the ruling military council in Sudan has already embarked on setting up a revolutionary guards corps similar to Iran's.

The sources pointed out that the new militia comprises a proregime military force intended to confront Sudanese opposition moves.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani suggested forming a Sudanese revolutionary guards corps during his recent visit to Khartoum.

Iranian Advisers Ready To Train Guards

NC0802095192 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 3 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Cairo—Informed Arab sources here have affirmed that an Iranian military team recently visited Sudan, in the wake of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, to hold bilateral military talks on cooperation and to discuss the Sudanese Army's need for weapons and equipment.

The same sources added that the Iranian military team carried out a comprehensive study on reorganizing the Sudanese Army and establishing a Sudanese revolutionary guards corps modeled after the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Iraqi Republican Guard. The Sudanese Revolutionary Guards Corps would comprise supporters of the Sudanese Islamic Front and back the regime against opposition forces. Iran expressed its willingness to begin arming and training the Sudanese guards.

The sources noted that the Sudanese Government decided to allocate funds to form the Revolutionary Guards Corps in light of increasing opposition in Sudan, the state of discontent and grumbling among Army officers, and frequent coup attempts since Lieutenant General al-Bashir came to power.

An Iranian parliamentary delegation visited Sudan recently and a Sudanese delegation comprising the Sudanese finance and economic planning ministers [titles as published] visited Tehran to conclude cooperation agreements.

'Permanent Rights' Claimed Over Egypt Border Areas

EA0702192292 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Sudanese Government has asserted Sudan's permanent rights over the two areas of Halaib [on the Red Sea] and what are known as the Wadi Halfa salients, basing its judgment on legal and historical documents in the government's possession. This was declared by Mr. Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin, first under secretary in

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who pointed out that the Sudanese Government loved its national territory and would not concede one inch of it.

He said that over the past few days some officials in the Arab Republic of Egypt have been issuing statements to various news media concerning border areas between Sudan and Egypt, pointing to the Halaib area and the right of Egypt to that area and thereby ignoring legal measures taken by the Government of Sudan whereby it has issued licenses to foreign companies to excavate mineral wealth with the aim of developing the area and improving the residents' economic, social, and administrative conditions. His excellency the Foreign Ministry's under secretary expressed his amazement that the Egyptian brothers had resorted to the media to express their views and claims concerning border issues between the two countries, and he pointed out that the issues could be solved through discussions and the patient research of all legal and historical patterns, on whose basis the border between the two countries would be regulated by law and fixed.

He went on to say that the Sudanese Government, despite its convictions concerning its permanent rights in the areas claimed by the Egyptian Government, is nevertheless fully prepared to negotiate to arrive at a comprehensive and final settlement of this matter, which has emerged now and again as a (?chronic) crisis in the relations between the two fraternal countries. His excellency maintained that the call by the Sudanese Government that it was ready to negotiate comes within the context of its desire to remove the causes impairing the development of relations and expansion of economic activity between the two parts of the Nile Valley within the framework of historical relations, fraternal ties, and common interests. He added that this would only be done on the basis of clarity and the law and through both countries' respect for sovereignty.

Saudi Arabia

Authorities Arrest 250 Preachers, Launch Manhunt

NC0702150092 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Saudi authorities have arrested 250 mosque preachers from various parts of the Kingdom. They also have launched a manhunt for men of religion whom they describe as extremist elements who have departed from the spirit of the Sharia.

In their sermons, a number of preachers have attacked graft. Audio and video cassettes attacking corruption and the departure from the Sharia also have appeared on the market.

'Source' Says Reports 'Baseless'

LD0802142792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Feb [dateline as received]—A responsible source stated the following to SPA today:

In reply to the fabricated reports carried by some Arab and Western information media about the existence of arrests and differences of opinion in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we wish to reiterate that all these reports are totally baseless and have no shred of truth.

The source added: While reiterating our categorical denial of all these reports sneakily prepared by well-known rancorous, hostile quarters, we wish to renew our invitation to the information media which rushed to publish these reports before verifying their truth, to seek accuracy in all the reports that they disseminate and publish because of the distortion of facts and events that might result from their actions.

Saddam Praises 'Spirit' of Factory Workers

JN0802195892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the Iraqis consider the difficulties they are currently undergoing to be an experience in their life, which they make up for by engaging in work and remaining loyal to their principles.

His excellency delivered a speech while inspecting a production facility targeted by the U.S. aggressors and their Atlantic and Zionist allies during their sinful aggression against the people of Iraq at this time last year. He said: We praise God that their aggression failed, for you retained your spirit. Zionism failed to fulfill its objectives through this aggression.

His excellency said that they can prevent a ship carrying food from reaching us, but they cannot prevent us from exercising our humanity as we wish, and this is what will make the great victory.

Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's speech:

They were after this very spirit. They did not attack machines, but the spirit that now characterizes us. They were out to dismantle this spirit. But praise be to God, their aggression failed because you retained this spirit. The objectives of Zionism were not fulfilled throughout this conflict.

His excellency added: You deserve all pride and all prosperity, God willing. I have followed your progress, and one of the engineers told me that you accomplish in three months what would take foreigners a year.

He added: You do the job in a quarter of the time they need. This is the spirit they fought, and this is what frightened them, although this spirit did not threaten the humanity of their citizens. For we live in the Middle East—we are Iraqis and Arabs—while they are Americans, English, French, and other nationalities. Of course, some Arab traitors stood with them. These traitors, regrettably, betrayed their own people. While their people believe in a certain policy, these traitors adopted a different one. Had they left the matter to their own people, then we would have seen that Arabs do not perpetrate aggression against their Arab brothers.

His excellency pointed out that those who were frightened actually feared for their own illegitimate interests. They do not find their interests in establishing a project in Iraq, as part of relations of reciprocal interest which would benefit both sides. Their interests lie in maintaining the backwardness of this region and its people, whether in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, or other places. Their main concern is to prevent the homeland from achieving a sense of dignity or love for honest work.

His excellency said: When they saw that Iraq had achieved all the basic things needed to fulfill its humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab role, they began to plan the attack. They will never achieve anything, however, as long as faith remains in your hearts, and, thanks be to God, it will remain as long as the great noble objectives remain in your minds, and as long as your blood remains warm with faith.

His excellency added: Thanks be to God for everything. We consider the difficulties we are currently undergoing yet another experience in our life, which, God willing, we will make up for by engaging in work and remaining loyal to our principles. I do not say we can make up for the blood of our martyrs, but we honor their blood by adhering to all the principles we raised in the Mother of Battles.

His excellency added: They can prevent a ship carrying food from reaching us. But, they cannot prevent us from exercising our humanity as we wish, and this is what will make the great victory. If you do not believe what you have done, then I have faith in everything, and anything, you promise. I tell you: You can do something even greater. This is the impression I have of you.

President Saddam Husayn heard a detailed report on the accomplishments of the skilled builders, who were able to rebuild their factory in record time utilizing extraordinary methods.

The president was accompanied on his visit by Staff General [rank as received] Husayn Kamil Hasan, former supervisor of the industry sector, and Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, former senior under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

Minister Reacts to Security Council Statement

JN0902182292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Reacting to the press release issued by the UN Security Council on 5 February, concerning the review of the conditions of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn made the following statement to INA:

We regret, and were astonished by, the press release issued by the UN Security Council on 5 February 1992, which says that no agreement has been reached to adjust the sanctions system imposed on Iraq. This prejudgment, which is based on the intentions of certain council members who are hostile to Iraq and its people, has no legal or logical basis. To illustrate this fact, we report the following:

1. The Council based its decision on the report submitted by the secretary general on 25 January 1992. That report—according to fair politicians and legal experts—was clearly hostile to Iraq and based its final conclusions on assumptions and doubts that lack proof, evidence, and statistical data. These assumptions and doubts

cannot form a legal basis for the UN Security Council to make a serious decision, such as the decision to maintain the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people—which means pain and suffering to millions of old people, children, and women.

Meanwhile, the Council's press release completely ignored the irrefutable facts and the categorical evidence Iraq mentioned in its factual report on the measures it has taken to implement Resolution 687. Iraq's report was distributed to council members before the meeting.

2. The Council's press release mentioned serious evidence that Iraq is not complying with some clauses of Resolution 687, constituting a plain repetition of allegations which do not have, and will never have, any grounds. Regarding weapons of mass destruction, the claim of a secret Iraqi programs is a source of great astonishment, because the claim is being made eight months after the UN special committee charged with dealing with weapons of mass destruction started its mission. That committee enjoys not only Iraqi cooperation, but also immunities and privileges that allow it to verify Iraqi statements. Furthermore, the committee was furnished with intelligence and scientific and technical resources by certain countries, particularly the United States.

These facts expose the baseless allegations and lies, the sole aim of which is to continue the economic blockade that represents the ugliest human face of the modern age. Regarding the return of Kuwaiti property, if the Security Council members had referred back to the letter dated 24 January 1992, and Iraq's factual report sent to them and to the UN secretary general, they would have understood that Iraq demonstrated its readiness on several occasions to speed up the return of this property. The Kuwaiti side and the United Nations prevented this, claiming a shortage of personnel.

Regarding the issue of repatriating Kuwaitis and Third World nationals, Iraq's cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet its obligation cannot be denied. Approximately 6,518 Kuwaitis and other nationals have been repatriated. It is the Kuwaiti authorities who are hampering the repatriation of the remaining Kuwaitis. These authorities claim that they need time to check identity cards.

The contents of Iraq's factual report refer to a number of examples of compliance that should be taken into account by objective observes. Otherwise, how can we explain the UN activities which have taken place in Iraq if they do not indicate compliance? If there had been no compliance, the international organization's work over the past months would have been nonsense.

A fact that has become very clear is that certain forces on the Security Council are implementing their political interests in the name of the Security Council, in the hope of achieving political goals not stipulated in the council's resolutions, and that permitting this has made the Security Council an extension of the foreign policy mechanisms of these forces. This method cannot be in harmony with the Security Council's responsibilities under its charter, and is not even in line with the contents of its resolutions.

We appeal to the Security Council's members to read our 24 January letter carefully and fairly, as well as the factual report concerning Iraq's measures to implement Resolution 687, and to examine carefully the wicked political goals of allegations to which Iraq did not respond. Let them also remember that the credibility of the UN is in the balance, and that they must exert sincere efforts in the interest of the principles of justice, as stipulated in the charter.

Bush Urged To Concentrate on Job as 'Salesman'

JN0902173292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—An official spokesman at the Culture and Information Ministry said today that U.S. President Bush is trying to cover his failure to tackle difficult domestic problems by making abnormal statements, showing his intention to continue plotting against Iraq. The official spokesman said: This affirms that President Bush is still obsessed by the same personal delusion, and that he is not satisfied with going down in history as the third most-famous executioner in the world, after only Nero and Hulegu.

The Culture and Information Ministry official spokesman advised U.S. President Bush to concentrate his efforts on succeeding in his new job as a salesman of cars and spare parts to Japan. The spokesman also advised Bush to benefit from the experience and experiments of car salesmen in the United States in his attempt to tackle the ailing American economy, instead of falling under the illusion, along with his agents in the region, that they can interfere in Iraq's internal affairs after they completely failed in the chapter of treason and treachery that followed the military aggression.

UN Team Enters Scientific Council Building

JN0802194692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—INA has learned that the 10th nuclear inspection team, currently visiting Iraq, yesterday, Friday 7 February 1992, entered the headquarters of the Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils—an Arab organization comprising 16 Arab states whose staff enjoys diplomatic immunity—under the pretext of searching for documents belonging to the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization.

It was clear that this team wanted to fabricate theatrics similar to the famous ones put on by David Kay. Despite all the assurances given by Iraqi officials accompanying the team on the legal and diplomatic status of the union,

and despite efforts by the union's chairman, Dr. Taha Tayih al-Na'imi, to explain the nature of the union, its work, and the immunity it enjoys, they insisted on searching the building.

The Iraqi party accompanying the team acted calmly and with a great sense of responsibility, and explained to the international team and its head the consequences of its violations and disrespect for the international norms and charters which the United States and its allies brag about.

This team's entry into a scientific union building provides additional evidence of the inspection teams' violations of the conditions of the UN Security Council resolution, which constitute a deliberate attempt to harm Iraq.

Scientific Union Protests Search

JN1002105992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—The Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils has denounced the 10th nuclear inspections team's storming and search of the union's Baghdad headquarters on Friday [7 February].

In a memorandum sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali today, the union says that the international team's storming of the building constitutes a violation of all international norms and charters.

The memorandum points out that the union enjoys diplomatic status just like any other diplomatic mission in Iraq. It also notes that the scientific research policy of the union is formulated by its council, which is composed of the heads of the various scientific research agencies in the Arab member states. The secretariat only implements what the union's council decides.

The memorandum further points out that the union's secretary general stressed to the members of the inspection team that their entry into the union's headquarters required approval by the member states. Very regrettably, they insisted on opening all the doors and looking into all the rooms of the building, and searching through files by force.

The memorandum says that this act constitutes a violation of all norms and laws in this regard. It also affirms that these teams do not respect diplomatic missions having internationally accepted immunity, and tha they therefore (?tarnish) the reputation of the United Nations and the international community.

Government Reportedly Moving Offices From Karkuk

NC1002085692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah reports that the Iraqi Government is transferring government offices and private companies from Karkuk to Tikrit and Baghdad. Here is a partial list of the moves to date:

A. The [word indistinct] departments in Karkuk, al-Sulaymaniayh, and Chamchamal have been moved to Tikrit.

B. The Security and Intelligence Directorate has been transferred to Tikrit and Hawijah.

C. Party organizations have been transferred to the outskirts of Tikrit.

D. The Karkuk Educational Directorate has been transferred to Baghdad.

E. Oil equipment and pumps have been moved to Baghdad, Tikrit, and al-Anbar.

F. The Water, Sewer, and Electricity Directorates have been transferred to Hawijah and (Bidi).

Reports from Karkuk indicate that government authorities are blowing up [tafjir] industrial and oil installations, and transferring oil-extracting equipment and machines to other towns. In addition, all Kurdish oil workers have been fired.

U.S. Demand To Halt Settlement Rejected

TA0902054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] According to reports leaked to the media, Israel informed the United States that it would be willing to slow down the construction of settlements. Israel's official position, however, is that it will not agree to reduce construction in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, although it recognizes the right of the United States to determine how the funds it transfers to Israel are used. This was stated by political circles in Jerusalem following the meeting on Friday between Secretary of State Baker and Ambassador Shoval. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

Political sources in Jerusalem this morning described the contacts between the United States and Israel concerning the guarantees as treading water. Over the weekend, Secretary of State Baker unequivocally demanded from Ambassador Shoval that Israel stop building settlements in the territories. He did not accept as sufficient the Israeli formula whereby the United States would be allowed to oversee investments in the territories to ascertain that U.S. money is not invested there. The U.S. Administration demands an explicit Israeli commitment not to have any new housing starts in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Israel's response to this demand is: That is inconceivable. This government will not agree to have anybody curtail the legitimate right to settle Jews in Eretz Yisra'el. At the same time, Israel is prepared to enter negotiations on the use of the funds transferred by the United States. The tough negotiations on the guarantees will continue when Secretary Baker returns to Washington from his tour of the Muslim republics of the former USSR.

Shoval Asks About Private Building

TA0802172992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] In Washington yesterday evening, the meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval on the issue of the loan guarantees ended without results. It was agreed that the two men will meet again when Baker returns from a trip to Europe and to several republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Foreign Minister David Levi will tomorrow brief the cabinet on the Baker-Shoval meeting.

Political sources in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Shoval sought to clarify exactly what the Americans would agree to. One of the questions he asked was whether the United States would countenance private building in the territories.

Leahy Formula Termed 'Fair Proposal'

TA0902084992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 92 p A3

[Report by U.S.-based correspondent Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] What exactly was Shoval's proposal to Baker? The answer to that is not very clear, because the two sides agreed to keep all further contacts on the issue of guarantees secret. However, from the remarks of Israeli and U.S. sources, who have heard reports about the content of the Baker- Shoval meeting, the following picture arises:

—In general terms, the Israeli proposal endorses the U.S. concept of setting a certain quota on settlement housing starts, which will be exempt from the U.S. terms and beyond which conditions of some kind will be set as to Israel's settlement activities in the territories.

—According to the Israeli proposal, beyond this quota and as of a certain date, the sides will agree on a formula defining a certain level of building activity in settlements that will be considered the existing settlements' "natural growth." This level of activity will include the construction of housing projects and the construction of infrastructure. The Israeli proposal apparently accepts the approach, saying that Israel will preserve this agreed level of construction in settlements and will not deviate from it.

—The Israeli counterproposal accepts the principle whereby the equivalent of Israel's investment in the territories will be deducted from the total amount of the guarantees put at Israel's disposal by the administration. This deduction mechanism, known as the "Leahy formula" (after its originator, Senator Patrick Leahy), is acceptable to Israel, which views it as a fair mechanism for satisfying the U.S. demand that the U.S. aid funds are not directed toward the expansion of settlements in the territories or cause other funds to be freed for investment in the territories. [passage omitted]

—The Israeli proposal speaks of increasing the quota of the present housing starts in the settlements that Israel will be allowed to complete without invoking the U.S. restraining terms. [passage omitted]

—The Israeli proposal does not contain a precise definition of the term "housing starts." Baker and Shoval have not discussed this question in detail as yet.

—Ambassador Shoval promised Baker that Israel will honor its commitments in the framework of the guarantees agreements "without trying to outsmart or deceive," according to the Israeli sources who are conversant with the details of the Baker-Shoval meeting. Shoval stressed this point because the Americans have several times hinted unequivocally that in their opinion, Israel has not kept its past promises to provide information regarding its activities in the territories and that Israel has not adhered to the spirit of Foreign Minister David Levi's letter of assurances to Secretary Baker given in return for the $400 million housing loans guarantees which Israel received from the United States about a year and a half ago.

—The Israeli proposal states that the Patrick Leahy deduction formula should not be applied to funds invested in construction in East Jerusalem. It is unclear whether Shoval's proposal to Secretary Baker included a detailed reference to this issue, and it has been learned that to date the two have not discussed the status of construction in East Jerusalem in the context of the arrangement the two countries are trying to formulate.

Israeli sources in Washington said that this point is one of the most explosive obstacles on the path toward an agreement on guarantees. According to one source, "this issue may eventually kill all these negotiations."

—The counterproposal presented by Shoval to Baker was given orally and not as a written document. The two agreed to pursue the negotiations when Baker returns from his tour of the former USSR and to keep the details of debates confidential.

Two things are obvious with regard to Baker's response to the Israeli proposal. First of all, Baker clearly did not accept the proposal as it is and rejected it as a comprehensive proposal. Israeli sources in Washington referred to the offer presented by Shoval as "a proposal that could have succeeded but did not." At the same time, each side made it clear that its proposal does not represent the last, uncompromisable stand, and both expressed consent to pursue negotiations.

Another matter that plainly arose from the American reaction was that the United States does not regard economic aspects as a material obstacle barring the guarantees. The administration is ready to give Israel the guarantees and to assure a mechanism in the framework of which Israel will be given long-term guarantees in return for an Israeli promise to adhere to arrangements pertaining to settlement activities in the territories as agreed between the two countries.

One of the things Shoval told Baker was that if the United States persists in its tough stand on the matter of guarantees and poses harsh conditions in the sphere of settlements, it will be hard to achieve proper progress in the peace process. "This will seriously jeopardize the peace process," said an Israeli source to Israeli reporters in the wake of the Shoval-Baker meeting. [passage omitted]

Country 'To Go on Haggling'

TA0902084692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister David Levi will brief the cabinet about the Baker-Shoval meeting on Friday. Israel's tendency is to go on haggling with the United States about the nature of the restrictions on building in the territories in a bid to reach a mutually acceptable compromise. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

The assesment in Jerusalem is that the haggling over the guarantees will last quite a few weeks. The Baker-Shoval meeting on Friday made it clear that this will be a protracted process aimed at attaining a compromise acceptable to both sides. Obviously, Israel is prepared to compromise on the guarantees. At this point, Israel is talking about slowing down construction in the territories and deducting any money invested in the territories from the guarantees, only after the housing starts agreed upon are completed.

All this is not enough for the Americans; they want a freeze on settlement now. It is clear, however, that the argument now is over the extent of the freeze rather than on the freeze itself.

As for the estimated timetable, it is believed in Jerusalem that the negotiations will last at least another month. President Bush still has to go through the first round of the presidential elections, while Prime Minister Shamir is still facing a few internal struggles in the Likud.

Political sources in Jerusalem sought to describe the situation in a slightly more convenient light from Israel's point of view. The sources stressed that Israel has not officially agreed to any linkage whatsoever between the guarantees and political issues. Nevertheless, Shoval's announcement that Israel is willing to slow down the pace of settlement evidently means that Israel is ready to accept some kind of linkage between the policy in the territories and the guarantees.

How will the negotiations proceed now? The assesment in Jerusalem last night was that a key bargaining issue with the United States will be the number of housing starts whose completion will be approved. The United States talks about 9,000 housing starts, while Israel mentions over 13,000. While it is believed that a compromise could be attained on this issue, the assesment is that the United States will not agree to have Israel proceed with construction described as natural growth. It is not clear whether the Americans see the Leahy formula as applying only to construction beyond the number of housing starts that will be agreed upon, as Israel proposes.

Baker Retracts Offer Due to 'Mistrust'

TA1002081192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Judy Maltz]

[Excerpts] The United States has not accepted the data on the volume of housing starts in the territories, which Israel submitted in the framework of negotiations for loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants, and has made the guarantees conditional on reducing construction in the territories to less than 6,000 apartments.

A report communicated to Jerusalem by the Israeli Embassy in Washington states that Secretary of State James Baker has retracted the proposal he raised in his

first talk with Ambassador Zalman Shoval, in which he spoke of the completion of between 8,000 and 9,000 apartments. On Friday, when Shoval mentioned that this figure had been discussed, Baker said that, in the meantime, he found out that according to U.S. data, the number of housing starts is under 6,000.

This time Baker made it unequivocally clear that the cost of the completion of these apartments will be deducted from the requested sum of guarantees. The administration is not ready to distinguish between private and public construction, and Israeli officials said last night that this approach stems from mistrust and from the suspicion that Israel is disguising public construction as private building.

At the same time, the opinion prevailing in Jerusalem is that the administration will show more flexibility toward construction designed to satisfy the needs of natural growth and toward the construction of public services buildings, which are essential to the normal life of the population already living beyond the Green Line. The administration does not intend to impose the same restrictions on the construction in Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem.

The joint U.S.-Israeli team examining the economic aspects of the loan guarantees will outline a comprehensive plan designed to accelerate the implementation of economic reforms in Israel. The team will be headed by the State Department's Robert Zoellick and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel. The decision to set up a team was made in the course of the meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval last weekend.

The guiding lines of the plan will be: curbing inflation, reducing the budget deficit, implementing the privatization of government companies and the sale of banks, opening the Israeli economy to imports, and continuing to liberalize the capital and monetary markets. [passage omitted]

In recent talks with senior Jerusalem officials, the governor said he does not intend to embellish the state of the Israeli economy and certainly not to downgrade the risks inherent in a large budget deficit.

In the coming days, the Finance Ministry will launch a public relations campaign describing the economic reforms Israel has implemented in recent years, with a special emphasis on the fact that financial markets have been opened and the economy has been exposed to imports. The campaign will aim to convince the U.S. Administration that Israel is gradually becoming a free market capable of shouldering a greater national debt.

Shoval: Differences 'Not Insignificant'

TA1002055692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Reports from Washington say the United States wants to limit Israel to completing construction on 6,000 housing units in the territories, instead of the 9,000 previously cited. The report says this is the American condition for approving Israel's request for $10 billion in loan guarantees.

Reporter David Ze'ev spoke last night to Israel's Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval. He asked Mr. Shoval if getting the guarantees is assured:

[Begin recording] [Shoval] Nothing is guaranteed on either side. This is something which still has to be negotiated. As I said before, some of the differences of opinion are not insignificant, but what is perhaps positive is that there is a lot of goodwill on both sides. As I said yesterday or the day before yesterday, the matter of the guarantees is important to both countries, not just to Israel. Of course, obviously it's more important to Israel than to the United States, but it is important also to the United States. The United States continues to be committed to the principle of helping Israel in absorbing its immigrants, its refugees from the Soviet Union. The problem may have become more pressing even than it was in the past.

[Ze'ev] But would you say that technicalities separate the two sides, or are there larger gaps right now?

[Shoval] I think the gaps are still larger, and, you know, to those of your listeners who remember dancing the samba, they will probably remember that it's sometimes one step backward, one step forward. That is part of the procedure. We are still in the middle of the procedure; this is a negotiating procedure which has started two weeks ago, of which there will be a continuation after the secretary gets back from his extended European and Asian trip. Of course, the outcome cannot be guaranteed, because there are some important gaps, but there is also a will—on both sides, I would say—to try to find a mutually acceptable formula.

There are hundreds of thousands of Jews waiting to come to Israel in circumstances which could be potentially very jeopardous to their future in the former Soviet Union. The reason we have difficulties in absorbing them in a better way is that we have not yet got the loan guarantees, as well as other economic facilities from other countries, which would have helped us, which we assumed we would get—I would even say, on which there was an understanding that we would get. We are still hopeful that the humanitarian aspect, in which America participated in the past and is committed to in the present, will override any other sort of calculation. [end recording]

Ministers, Comment on Settlement-Guarantees Talks

Olmert Sees Offer as Shamir 'Victory'

TA0902080292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Sir, we would like to discuss the loan guarantees. The number cited at the moment is 13,500 or 9,000 housing starts, but it seems to me that Israel is clearly willing to compromise on the question of settlement in the territories. Is that right?

[Olmert] Given that the Israeli Government has not been asked to commit itself to freeze settlement, all the rest is negotiable. We make compromises on this issue that have nothing to do with the Americans, because of budgetary constraints, disposable national funds, and other priorities which call for building in other places. So, compromise is not a dirty word.

Our greatest fear has been that the U.S. Administration would ask for an explicit commitment from Israel. In this respect, the U.S. proposal constitutes a victory for the policy adopted by the prime minister, who did not share the view that we should commit ourselves. It was only one or two months ago that the Americans referred to the same housing starts as an obstacle to peace and said it was inconceivable that Jewish settlement should be expanded at a time when negotiations were under way. Now they are prepared to come to terms with the massive construction of thousands of housing units while negotiations are under way. In this sense, our policy has had the upper hand. It makes no difference whether we are talking about 10,000 rather than 12,000 or 12,000 rather than 14,000 housing starts. What counts is that construction will continue, that we were not issued a dictate to freeze settlement, and that Israel's need to expand its presence in Judaea and Samaria has actually been given international legitimization.

[Zohar] As you said, this is only the beginning of the negotiations. Thank you, sir.

[Olmert] I would like to point out that this is the U.S. proposal at this juncture. In other words, this will certainly be the minimum rather than the maximum.

Others Reject U.S. 'Pressure'

TA0902132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The cabinet did not discuss or even mention the word guarantees in its session today but may yet discuss the subject in a smaller forum, such as in the inner cabinet, on Wednesday. The cabinet was not briefed on this question and, consequently, did not debate the matter or the fact that at this point the United States is not granting the loan guarantees Israel is seeking to finance aliyah absorption.

We asked two ministers to comment on the issue. Let us first hear Minister Moshe Qatzav, who told us that U.S. pressure on the question of the settlements will ultimately harm the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Minister Qatzav, is a situation emerging whereby Israel will have to halt settlement to get the guarantees?

[Qatzav] We still hope and expect the U.S. Administration not to renege on the fundamental principle it laid out for the peace process—namely, that no preconditions should be set for the negotiations between us and the Arabs. The Arabs have accepted this condition, and the negotiations are under way.

The United States is now raising an issue that will in any case be discussed in the negotiations, an issue that is on the agenda of relations between Israel and the Arab countries. Hence, the United States should not be the first to present a precondition that links economic aid to Israel to the policy of the Israeli Government, a linkage that is unprecedented on its own merits.

[Golan] You talk about the future, but on Friday Baker raised such a condition, first in his meeting with Ambassador Shoval and later in an interview with CNN. In other words, it is no longer a secret that Israel must halt settlement to receive the loan guarantees.

[Qatzav] We still expect the administration not to insist on this demand. We hope the U.S. Administration will enable the peace process to go on. In our opinion, this U.S. position will harm the peace process. It will make the Arab position more extreme, the Arab countries will be less willing to reach a compromise with Israel, and it will definitely put Israel in an uncomfortable position in the peace negotiations we are currently conducting.

[Golan] Minister Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party was asked whether the contacts between the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government will ultimately result in a compromise whereby Israel will agree to reduce settlement, albeit not to freeze it altogether.

[Sciaki] Unfortunately, I know the economic situation is such that in any case we will not be able to carry out all the missions we set for ourselves, either with regard to aliyah and its absorption or concerning unemployment and settlement. If restrictions are imposed, those will not be of a political nature but of a clearly economic nature; they will not be brought about by U.S. pressure or as part of some kind of deal with the Americans. I am sure the government's position that the guarantees should be granted totally without regard to settlement has not changed, and I do not think that position will change any time soon. [end recording]

Shamir Aide: No Settlement Freeze

TA0902202492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said tonight that Israel will not agree to freeze settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. He made the remarks in response to our correspondent's question in the wake of Secretary of State Baker's unequivocal demand for a settlement

freeze, without which Israel will not receive the loan guarantees. The positions of the prime minister and the U.S. Administration therefore appear to be diametrically opposed this evening. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

Settlements or loan guarantees for immigrant absorption—that is the choice the U.S. Administration is offering Israel, or more precisely Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, at the start of this week. However, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of Shamir's office and his right-hand man, made it clear tonight in response to my question: No, Israel will under no circumstances accept a demand to freeze settlement or curtail it for political reasons. Negotiations are continuing, Ben-Aharon said.

What compromise is possible then between those extreme positions? The optimists among the policymakers in Jerusalem believe a formula in which Israel will pay a fine but receive aid for immigrant absorption is possible. In other words, any amount spent on settlement in the territories will be deducted from the loan guarantees. A poll I conducted among most of the cabinet ministers shows that those who believe that there is no alternative to concessions on settlement to get the loan guarantees comprise a clear majority. Some ministers even said with a bitter smile that it will always be possible to present settlement cutbacks as resulting from economic duress.

One can say that above all the prime minister fears a political dictate now that will lead to exploitation of Israel's financial situation in the future as well, and then to dictates about land for peace. The situation is sensitive, but it is too early to write off the loan guarantees, close aides of the prime minister reassure us, but Israeli officials who closely watch Israeli-U.S. relations say that Secretary Baker's firm style leaves no room for doubt. The confrontation between Israeli ideology and U.S. aid is sharper than it has been in the past. [passage omitted]

Clarification Sought on Detainees in Egypt

TA0902175192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry has instructed the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to inquire as to why Israel has not received details about the Israeli detainees in Egypt, as it is claimed that the investigation is still continuing; while the Egyptian interior minister is quoted as saying that they have admitted to spying for Israel.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Israel insists on the customary consular right to visit detainees and receive official information on the reason for their detention.

'Official Sources' Deny Spy Charge

TA1002114292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] Official sources in Jerusalem have denied that there is any connection whatsoever between the Israeli arrested in Egypt and any Israeli intelligence organizations. Ever since the Israeli was arrested an investigation has been under way into whether the man was in any way linked to intelligence activity, and this possibility has been categorically ruled out. Israeli sources even considered the possibility of a connection between the suspect and Islamic organizations. However, virtually no grounds were found for this suspicion either.

Israel was surprised by the Egyptian interior minister's announcement that the Israeli citizen had admitted spying for Israel. HADASHOT was told that the interior minister's announcement was strange and now attempts are being made to discover whether there is some covert motive behind the publication of such an announcement in the media before waiting for an official Israeli response.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 10 February, in a page 1 report by Hemi Shalev and the Arab affairs correspondent, adds that "sources in Jerusalem reported that according to their information, the two Israelis are indeed under arrest but not in prison. This indicates that their interrogation is not over yet. The sources noted that they believed the two Israelis were arrested on suspicion of having committed some criminal offense, such as fraud or forgery, and that the news of their arrest had been blown up into an espionage affair by interested parties."]

Yeshiva Students Take Over House in Old City

TA0902184892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Several members of 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva this evening took over a house on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. Correspondents Gil Litman and Moshe Nussbaum report that a Jerusalem magistrate ruled that 'Ateret Kohanim has the right to enter the building. The two-story building was seized quietly and without police intervention. 'Ateret Kohanim members first entered the house four months ago, after which Arab residents appealed to the courts to rule whether the action was legal.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek told our correspondent that leaving aside the legal aspects of entering the house, such actions are another blow to Jerusalem's status as the united capital of Israel in the eyes of the international community.

Levi Declares Candidacy for Likud Leadership

TA0802202892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has announced that he will run against Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon to be Likud's candidate for prime minister. In a speech in Herzliyya to members of his camp, David Levi said that he believes he has the power to lead the Likud to victory in the elections and to restore it to the number of Knesset seats it held in 1977. Levi justified his decision by arguing that, among other reasons, the political line he represents is the one supported by most Israelis. He said that the economic and social situation is difficult. He also criticized the Likud's internal state of affairs and said that the movement's democratic traditions have been eroded.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reported that Levi was greeted at the convention by crowds singing "David, the king of Israel," and that his announcement that he will run for the leadership of the party received lengthy applause. Six Knesset members [MK's] and several local council heads attended the meeting. MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera joined the participants and was met with tumultuous applause.

Heart Attack Ruled in Death of Security Detainee

TA0702185092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] In an initial report, two pathologists from Israel and the United States today declared that a post mortem on the body of security detainee Mustafa 'Akhawi showed that he suffered from arterial sclerosis, which accounted for a 90-percent narrowing of some of his vessels. They said that he died of heart failure caused by the disease.

The two forensic experts were called in after 'Akhawi was found dead in his cell in a Shin Bet security service prison in Hebron. In their report, the pathologists also point out that they found contusions under the skin of the chest and the upper arms. This, they said, was caused by blows suffered by 'Akhawi a week before he died, when he was already in detention; but this was not a contributory factor to his death.

At the same time, the experts said that in order to prepare a final report, they would need to look at the conditions under which he was held during the period leading up to his demise.

The two pathologists later went to Hebron to examine his cell. The final report is to be issued to the police and 'Akhawi's family. The funeral of 'Akhawi will take place tomorrow at noon. His family have pledged not to allow anyone to inflame passions. In any event, the police say they will take precautions to forestall trouble.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1805 GMT on 7 February carries a related report, which adds: "Sources at the police's General Investigation department in charge of investigating the circumstances of 'Akhawi's death said that they would no longer investigate suspected manslaughter but would perhaps focus on other aspects of the case." The report adds: "Those giving a big sigh of relief this evening are the head of the Shin Bet and his aides. They had been under widespread attack by various elements once more calling for tighter control over the Shin Bet. This evening, the pathologists' findings have absolved the head of the Shin Bet of the need to draw conclusions against his subordinates."]

Rabin Edges Peres by 10 Percent Within Labor

TA0702120692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Feb 92 p 2

[Report on public opinion poll conducted by the Smith Research Institute]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has a 10-percent edge over Shim'on Peres as the Labor candidate for prime minister.

This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted by telephone among a representative sample of some 800 Labor members in January by Hanokh and Rafi Smith of the Smith Research Institute.

The question posed was: "Which of the following would you like to be Labor's candidate for prime minister in the upcoming elections: Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Yisra'el Qeysar, or Ora Namir?" following are the results:

Yitzhaq Rabin	40 percent
Shim'on Peres	30 percent
Ora Namir	7 percent
Yisra'el Qeysar	4 percent
None of the above	8 percent
No opinion	11 percent

Our correspondent Orly Azulay-Katz adds that members of the Peres camp have expressed doubts regarding the findings of the poll: "The findings of this poll do not correspond with findings of polls of party members conducted by impartial institutes," they said.

Rabin on Policies if Elected

TA0602184692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin of Labor says that after the elections he would prefer a coalition with the left and the Haredi-Orthodox, rather than a national unity coalition. He told newsmen in Haifa he regarded the new left front as part of a joint bloc with the Labor Party, even if the latter lost a few seats to the new alignment. Rabin added: If the Labor Party lost the elections with himself as leader, he would renounce his seat and call on the party to change its leadership.

On another issue, reporter Sylvia Leif asked Rabin whether he would remove settlements in the territories if elected:

[Begin Rabin recording] We will cut all the tremendous amounts of funds that the Government of Israel has budgeted for the establishment of the political settlements. We'll continue to settle in Jerusalem and along the confrontation lines, especially in the Jordan Valley, but not what the Likud does today, which is political settlements that don't add anything to the security of Israel. [end recording]

Interviewed by Cairo Daily

NC0802160092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by AL-AHRAM correspondent Amirah Hasan; place, date not given]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin is in the limelight today as a possible contender for the leadership of Shim'on Peres' Labor Party in the party's next internal elections. Much importance is attached to his views on current hot political issues because he is one of Israel's most prominent politicians. We conducted the following dialogue with him on several issues:

[Hasan] Generally speaking, what, in your view, is the goal of the multilateral talks?

[Rabin] The objective of the multilateral talks is to create a bridge of healthy dialogue among the concerned parties. They also are the key to progress in the Israeli-Palestinian bilateral negotiations. Nevertheless, I believe that the multilateral talks are a secondary issue as long there is no progress between the Israelis and the Palestinians over West Bank and Gaza issues. Therefore, these talks will not yield any significant results for either party. When these issues are resolved, the Syrian and Jordanian role in the talks will come second because the Palestinians represent the central issue. The principal task now lies in reaching a solution between ourselves and the Palestinians and agreeing on measures pertaining to the transitional period until Palestinian autonomy is attained.

As for the European side, I can see complications there. Priority must be given to the quest for Palestinian-Israeli peace.

[Hasan] Can we say then that you understand the Palestinian and Syrian boycott of the multilateral talks?

[Rabin] This boycott is not the definite issue in these talks. I make a distinction between them and the basic question of achieving progress in the bilateral talks between Palestine [as published] and Israel. In my opinion, the role of the multilateral talks is to establish a bridge of understanding between the two concerned parties and perhaps also to open the door for regional cooperation. No discussions can make progress as long as the bilateral talks are stumbling. What proves this is that Egypt and Israel agreed in 1986 to form a team whose task was to establish joint projects. [Former Egyptian Prime Minister] Dr. Mustafa Khalil and the Bank of Israel governor chaired this team. When I met Dr. Mustafa Khalil at the Labor Party conference this year, I asked him about the status of this agreement which had been made five years earlier and had produced no results. Dr. Mustafa Khalil asserted that it is difficult to accomplish anything before progress is made on Palestinian-Israeli issues and before Israel's problems with its Arab neighbors are resolved. Cooperation with Egypt is almost nonexistent today—13 years after the peace treaty.

Therefore, we see that the multilateral talks will not bring salvation because the key is progress in the bilateral talks.

[Hasan] The bilateral negotiations appear to be practically deadlocked.

[Rabin] I agree with you. I have criticisms of the Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian sides. To begin with, the makeup of the delegations which attended the Madrid conference must not be altered, but the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation must be split into two delegations so the Jordanian delegation can be independent. The same thing should apply to the Palestinian delegation because one must accept the facts. The Arab world cannot speak on behalf of the Palestinians, who must be treated as an independent partner. Furthermore, Israel has international obligations to achieve progress and find a solution with the Palestinians. A solution primarily is represented by autonomy, which also is subject to discussion.

[Hasan] How do you envision autonomy?

[Rabin] I do not want to give any details now, but my view is definitely different from the Likud's. I prefer to keep my views on this issue to myself now and focus on the results of the negotiations. If I succeed in getting elected as Labor Party leader in the party elections, you will know the details of this issue.

[Hasan] As long as we are talking about autonomy, Yosef Hadas, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, has stated that the concept of autonomy has changed as a result of the growing number of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.

[Rabin] I agree that the growing number of settlers is a burden. But we have an international obligation to meet. It is known that I and the Labor Party oppose the establishment of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Building these settlements is not in Israel's political interest. Even if we succeed in establishing Palestinian autonomy, I believe that the settlements will not contribute to this goal.

On the other hand, I believe that the Israeli Government should pay attention to the issue of immigration from

Russia and try to find job opportunities for young immigrants. In my opinion, this is more important than building settlements.

[Hasan] In your opinion, how can we work on limiting the arms race in the region?

[Rabin] This is a very complicated issue, and it is a mere fantasy to assume that we can limit the arms race before achieving a political solution agreed upon by the sides involved in the arms race. Before the Soviet Union collapsed, it might have been possible to imagine some hope of controlling this issue. But the world today is going through a state of political disorder, and a decisive solution for this issue, in view of the current international circumstances, cannot be realized. For example, if we are able to agree on arms limitation, then will such an agreement include Iraq, Iran, and Libya? I believe that the balance of power has become unclear now, especially since there no longer are two superpowers. The attention of both the United States and the former Soviet Union is now directed at solving other internal problems. Baker confirmed this when he said: Do not expect another American Marshall Plan, which the United States presented to Germany and Japan after World War II.

[Hasan] After a peace treaty is signed between Israel and its Arab neighbors, will the former allow international supervision of its nuclear reactor?

[Rabin] I do not know, nor can I confirm whether Israel owns nuclear weapons. But I can say that without peace, it is difficult to allow permanent supervision.

We have proposed—and we propose today, too—that permanent mutual supervision should exist between us and the Arab countries on the basis of a multilateral agreement between Israel and all the Arab countries. Personally, I do not believe in international supervision; I believe in mutual supervision.

[Hasan] We all know that the PLO is the one that makes final decisions regarding the Palestinian delegation. Why do you continue to keep the PLO at bay?

[Rabin] I previously have said that the significance of the bilateral talks lies in the participation of Palestinians from the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a joint delegation. Discussions among themselves are not our concern. I cannot prevent them from doing that.

[Hasan] What are your proposals for pushing the peace march forward if you are elected president of the Labor Party?

[Rabin] I will work on implementing my earlier proposal of 1989. I will not change the formation of the delegation that participated in the Madrid conference and the Washington talks. But I will work on making the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation two independent delegations and concentrate on realizing autonomy. I also will discuss the issue with Jordan and Syria after that. I would like to point out here that the most important thing in Israel's interest now is the Palestinian status in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Hasan] What solution do you see for the problem of the Palestinian refugees in the camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and other Arab countries?

[Rabin] We see autonomy as a transitional period for five years. This is what we are hoping to achieve now. No problems can be solved until after autonomy is achieved.

[Hasan] What are the broad lines Yitzhaq Rabin will use in the coming election battle?

[Rabin] First, we must be strong militarily. Second, we need to absorb the issue of emigration and find work for the youth. Third, we must realize some progress toward peace. We are fed up with hearing the phrase "the peace march." Fourth, we will stop building settlements, which are costing Israel a great deal of its interests. This will guarantee that we get the American loan guarantees in full. Fifth, we will change the procedure of direct election of the prime minister.

Removal of Muslim Cemeteries in Jerusalem Condemned

JN0702132192 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir described the latest Israeli infringements on several Islamic cemeteries in Jerusalem as a provocatory act, contradictory to spiritual and religious values, and violates international laws.

In an interview with the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, Dr. Abu-Jabir said the complete removal of two Muslim cemeteries in central Jerusalem signals out that Israel will relentlessly continue its Judaization of Arab lands, regardless of efforts by the world community to achieve a just and permanent peace in the area. The foreign minister called on the world community to be cautious of such inhumane measures, as it continues to put obstacles in the peace process.

On the other hand, the foreign minister welcomed the stand by the U.S. Government with regard to the $10 billion loan guarantees to Israel, especially the latest statements by the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, on the matter.

Al-Majali Hails Baker Statement on Settlements

JN0902132292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has welcomed the statement by the U.S. secretary of state that the Israelis must put an end to settlement activities in the occupied territories. Dr. al-Majali described this statement as positive and good; it is a humanitarian U.S. position toward the Palestinians and the Arabs. This, he added, is evidence that the settlements violate and encroach upon Arab rights.

Dr. al-Majali was commenting on Baker's statement that loan guarantees should be made conditional on halting the establishment of new settlements, and that settlement in the occupied territories must be stopped completely—both new settlements and those already under construction. He added that 5,000 units are currently under construction. He also stressed the need for additional U.S. pressure, not only by utilizing the settlement issue but by making use of the many economic aspects in which Israel also has an interest. He added that these statements will positively affect the peace negotiations, especially those which are to be held in Washington soon, and that they indicate U.S. seriousness. He then called for supporting such a positive statement with positive action in order to put an end to settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

Editorial Criticizes Baker Request

JN0702080992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Settlements Cannot Be Bypassed"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has called on the Palestinians not to link Israeli settlements in the occupied territory with the peace negotiations.

The secretary's request creates doubts about the seriousness of the U.S. Administration's endeavor to achieve peace on the basis of withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Why does he not want to place the issue of settlements on the agenda of the bilateral talks, so that these settlements will be stopped before thousands of them are planted in the occupied territory? Such continued activity will leave the Palestinians with nothing to negotiate over.

When the U.S. secretary announced a linkage between the issue of settlements and the American loan guarantees to Israel, we expected the U.S. Administration to play a new role—firmer than before—to force Israel to stop building more settlements, which are a stumbling obstacle to the peace process.

One or two days later, the U.S. secretary warned the Palestinians against concentrating on the issue of settlements in the bilateral negotiations. This means a retreat in the American position vis-a-vis this problem.

The Jewish organizations in the United States and Congress, a body which has many members who are supporters of Israel and Zionism, might have great influence on the American position concerning settlements.

If the settlements are not an important issue in the bilateral talks, and if Washington wants to prevent the Palestinians from addressing this issue, then just which issues will the Palestinians address at the negotiations?

We fear that one day the U.S. Administration will try to dictate to the Palestinians which topics they can address and which topics they cannot raise.

We believe that the settlements are a blatant violation of international charters and laws and of UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Despite this, the U.S. Administration is not intervening sufficiently, in light of its responsibility as a sponsor of the peace process, to force Israel to stop the settlements.

The Palestinians have a right to concentrate on this essential issue before settlements cover every donum of the occupied territory.

The Bush administration should intervene immediately to stop the settlements, before the Palestinians and Arab parties think of something that will not please it.

Baker Tour of Islamic Republics Criticized

JN0802095192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Feb 92 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Weeping for Islam, Then Plotting Against It"]

[Text] No one has forgotten that the United States put all its military, political, and propaganda weight behind the "Afghan mojahedin" to enable them to triumph over the infidel communists. The billions spent by the United States under the pretext of protecting Islam and Muslims in Afghanistan, the tanks and missiles given to them, and the White House reception for their leaders do not appear to have been of any value since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the restoration of the Islamic republics' national independence.

The current U.S. effort, crowned by the tour of these republics by James Baker, is aimed at protecting these republics from Islam and their peoples from their true religion. The United States, which fought the "infidel communists" in the trenches of Afghanistan, is putting all its weight into fighting Muslims since they were liberated from communism, and to besiege Islam so it will not become a real force, capable of protecting the citizens of the Islamic republics from Western humiliation.

Tens of billions were spent in Afghanistan, but today the former Soviet republics, whether Islamic or not, find only a fraction of the Western assistance they were promised. At the same time, the West continues its hectic efforts to strip these republics of their nuclear capabilities and distinguished scientists and their potential, which is embodied in their religion, national identity, and their aspiration for deep and real national independence.

The deteriorating economic conditions in these republics are the result of a malicious game that began with Gorbachev's assumption of power in the Kremlin. These conditions do not concern the Westerners and do not make them remember the rich countries' humanitarian responsibilities toward the poor ones, and the able countries' toward the weak ones. All that concerns the Western political, military, economic, and media officials is how to strip the Soviet body of all its potential and to leave it dying from cold and hunger.

Baker's new tour of the Islamic republics, as announced by the secretary himself, aims to besiege Islam in these republics and besiege Muslims, so that no links are established between them and their brothers in the Islamic world, and the Soviet Muslims do not receive from other Muslims the true picture of Western racism, which is hostile to all religions and conspires against us all—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—through the Western-Zionist alliance.

We believe that the Islamic republics should not remain open to such suspicious moves without a countermove by all Muslims who can—with all their money, awareness, knowledge, and potential—assume their full responsibility toward our brothers, whose Islam the West used to weep over, but is now plotting against. Open plotting is taking place and everyone is aware of it.

'That Country' Accused of Repressing Islamists

JN0602212392 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 4 Feb 92 p 16

["East and West" column by Yasir Ibrahim al-Za'atirah: "That Country"]

[Text] A few months ago, we told concerned citizens from that country: You are in for an unprecedented witch-hunt and campaign of repression. Nixon explicitly stated that U.S. interests in the region reside in oil and the Zionist entity. This means that you pose a threat to both, and so the repression will be all the more ferocious.

That regime has, since the end of the Gulf crisis, played the role of the cat's paw to coerce Arab parties farther into the American camp. Moreover, that regime has been waging a pitiless, all-out war against Islamists wherever they are. Has it not deployed its own, as well as other media it controls, in a drive to discredit and incite against Islamic movements in more than one Arab country? Mercenary newspapers and periodicals abound with false and fabricated reports instigated against the Islamists. It paid out millions to John Garang to compensate him for the blow he received with the downfall of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia.

That regime has rebuffed all attempts at reconciling it with Arab states that took a different line on the Gulf crisis, but mended fences with others, lavishing millions on them, just because they are fighting a dirty war against Islamists; a case in point is an Arab Maghreb state. When Islamists nearly attained power through the ballot box in an Arab state, and then the military turned against them, that regime paid out $2 billion to reward the boots that trampled the will of the people.

Plus, while that country withholds support for a faction of Muslims, toward whom it was generous when the United States was so inclined, it has now paid $1.25 billion to the very state that had been waging war against them, and even makes every effort to split their ranks and force them to go along with an American-imposed solution to their problem.

All this has happened since the Gulf crisis; not that that regime's track record was any cleaner previously. That regime's support for the contras and other scandals are common knowledge now. The point is that whereas that regime formerly conducted itself demurely, it has now lost all sense of shame, and it no longer cares.

Islamists or those promoting Islam in that country—these being the only group capable of saying no to reprehensible practices—will be targeted for repression, muzzled, and those who dare speak out will be arrested. That is exactly what has happened over the past two weeks. More than 20 clerics are now reported to be behind bars in that country, because of their opposition to the regime's more recent practices that no longer have the support of clerics or preachers to the Islamic faith. It was the document presented by a group of religious

scholars, in which they came out against Desert Storm and its aftermath, that prompted acts of repression on the part of the regime.

This is only the beginning, and is meant by the regime to test feelings on the street and of the Islamists toward the arrests. If the reaction falls short of the event, then the Islamists will be completely discounted, in favor of the influential secular forces in the key state agencies. The problem with that regime and its supporters is that they seem to think the United States will have a field day forever, and so they may as well press ahead with their drive to suppress the will of the people and to work on behalf of the enemies who will guarantee. [sentence as published]

Al-Hirawi Holds Talks With Syria's al-Asad

NC0802201992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] During their three meetings in Damascus, President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad appraised the latest developments regarding the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington.

A statement issued by the Presidential Information Directorate emphasized that the two presidents agreed on holding further consultations with Arab and European countries to determine whether the talks will produce the expected serious results, in view of the fact that Lebanon's and Syria's objective is to achieve tangible and fundamental progress, not just to hold meetings.

The statement said that in regard to the internal situation in Lebanon, the need to unite was emphasized, especially in light of recurring Israeli acts of aggression in the south and the absence of financial aid to Lebanon, particularly the failure to establish the international fund for reconstruction.

Preparations for Papal Visit to Lebanon Discussed

NC0802193492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned from the Vatican this evening, concluding a visit which confirmed that dialogue and discussion will continue between the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the pope, according to sources close to al-Husayni citing Vatican sources.

Sources close to the speaker add that the Lebanese-Vatican talks may be expanded soon to include other European capitals.

Speaker al-Husayni returned to Beirut after meeting with Pope John Paul II and ranking officials in the Holy See. During the meeting they discussed serious preparations for the pope's visit to Lebanon. Speaker al-Husayni's sources said Lebanon is one of the priority interests of the Holy See.

Buwayz Denies U.S. Advice on Israeli Withdrawal

NC0702181292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has denied that the United States informed him of a possible Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon in April. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper yesterday published an interview with Buwayz in which he said that Washington informed Lebanon more than once that the peace process may quicken due to an Israeli withdrawal from the south, which is expected in April at the latest.

Army Commander—Focus on Liberating South

NC0802115392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The Army commander, General Emile Lahhud, thinks that the plot has not ended and the security threat continues in the heartland as well as in the south. In an interview with the Army magazine, General Lahhud said: We are on the threshold of a very critical stage for the region in general and Lebanon in particular. This requires awareness and alertness on the part of military men at all levels. He added that the Army will keep an eye on the south and its finger poised on the trigger as long as the occupation continues and there are citizens who are suffering. Our focus will be on liberating the south until the occupation ends.

Publication of 'Awn Book Prohibited

NC0602125492 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] At 2130 last night, the head of the Internal Security Department for Censorship of Publications and Recordings, Commissioner General Nabil Taqiy al-Din, arrived at AL-NAHAR's offices to inform the newspaper of a decision by Raymond Rufa'il, public security chief, prohibiting AL-NAHAR from continuing to publish excerpts of the book *A General's Bet* by Carol Daghir. The Arab World File publishing house in Beirut is preparing to publish the book in both French and Arabic.

Al-Din said the reason the paper cannot carry any more excerpts of the book, which deals with General Michel 'Awn's leadership, is because the publisher is not properly licensed. AL-NAHAR, therefore, apologizes that we cannot publish the next installment, called "The Difficult Days." The first part was published yesterday, under the headline "The Day of the Betrayed," which dealt with the events of 13 October 1990, which ended General 'Awn's rule.

IAEA Head Visits, Discusses Safeguard Pact

JN0602202392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 92

['Abdallah al-Dardari dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Talks between Syrian officials and Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], began in Damascus today.

Blix's visit to Syria has two major objectives. The first is to discuss transforming the Middle East into a region free of nuclear weapons. Syria is calling for international supervision of the Israeli nuclear arsenal, and for Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and a comprehensive nuclear safeguards agreement. The second objective is to discuss Syria joining the comprehensive nuclear safeguards agreement, which gives the IAEA the right to inspect any nuclear installations it participates in establishing. The agreement also sets technical, environmental, and security conditions these installations should fulfill. Syria had not signed this agreement because it had no nuclear installations. But now, after the PRC's announcement that it has agreed to provide Syria with a 24-megawatt nuclear reactor, the IAEA says that Syria should join the safeguards agreement if it wants the IAEA to provide it with the necessary technical assistance. Syria is expected to make a decision in this respect during Blix's visit to Syria, in line with its constant call to transform the Middle East into a region free of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

State Minister, Blix Confer

JN0602191192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, received at noon today Dr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and Kiya Wahla, resident representative of the UN relief program in Damascus [name and title as received], in the presence of the concerned advisers and directors at the State Planning Organization.

During the meeting, Dr. Baqjaji affirmed the need to encourage scientific research for peaceful purposes, noting the importance of enhancing cooperation with the IAEA in promoting the peaceful use of energy.

For his part, Dr. Blix expressed his happiness that Syria's approach in this regard is meant to make peaceful use of energy in the agricultural field. He also said that he was pleased with what has been achieved in this regard.

The talks dealt with the numerous means of generating energy and their contribution toward economic development. The talks also touched on the possible uses of these sources of energy, a matter which has something to do with the economic feasibility of investment and a protected environment. They also dealt with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially in the fields of medicine and agriculture. Furthermore, the minister and the IAEA director general discussed the use of gamma rays in safeguarding seeds and prolonging the stocking age of vegetables.

Blix Meets Education Minister

JN0602171692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—Higher Education Minister Dr. Kamal Sharaf received here today Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, talks revolved around the project of modernizing nuclear medicine and radiation therapy in Syria, which was brought to the attention of the IAEA two years ago as part of a full-blown plan to render services to the northern and coastal areas of Syria. The talks also dealt with the holding of courses by the IAEA for physicians, physicists, and those working in the field of nuclear medicine and radiation therapy in Syria.

Blix expressed the IAEA's readiness to extend every possible assistance to Syria in the fields of nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, and underground water exploration endeavors.

Israeli Capability Noted

JN0602191992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Dr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Dr. Ibrahim Haddad, director general of the Syrian Atomic Energy Agency, and Dr. Najdi al-Jazzar, head of the International Organizations Department, also attended.

During the meeting, talks focused on Israel's nuclear capabilities, the need for Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the need to make the Middle East region an area free of all weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which must be nuclear weapons. Talks also dealt with cooperation between Syria and the IAEA, and means of promoting this cooperation in the field of using atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Agreement on Safeguards Reported

JN0902170592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 9 Feb (SANA)—At 1200 today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Dr. Ibrahim Haddad, director general of the Atomic Agency Authority, also attended the meeting.

The two reviewed the talks Mr. Blix had with Syrian officials, and explored possibilities for cooperation between Syria and the IAEA to promote the peaceful use

of nuclear power in Syria in the areas of medicine, agriculture, industry, and scientific research.

The foreign minister expressed Syria's satisfaction with the level of cooperation with the IAEA and the need to expand it.

Al-Shar' relayed Syria's decision to subscribe to the comprehensive safeguards pact, stressing that Syria was keen to contribute to ridding the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons in particular.

For his part, Mr. Blix lauded Syria's decision to join the safeguards agreement, under which Syria would reaffirm its commitment to its international obligations in accordance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

He called the Syrian decision a significant step toward the realization of comprehensive safeguards in the Middle East and around the world.

The meeting also stressed that the Syrian step will prompt the international community to pressure Israel into signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the comprehensive safeguards pact, to spare the region the risks inherent with weapons of mass destruction.

Blix Comments on Talks

JN1002080092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus—Professor Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], affirmed at a press conference held in Damascus last night that the Syrian Government had expressed a sincere desire to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Prof. Blix added that Syria also had expressed its continuous support for the IAEA's system of guarantees and its willingness to cooperate fully with the agency to implement the comprehensive safeguards pact.

Prof. Blix noted that Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had informed him that Syria has agreed to reach a comprehensive safeguards pact in accordance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Blix expressed his appreciation for Syria's stand in this regard. Prof. Blix said that Syria is determined to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that it is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

At his news conference, Blix added that Israel has not yet joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Asked whether Syria's signing of the safeguards pact will constitute pressure on Israel, Prof. Blix responded: This might constitute pressure on Israel of another kind and isolate it in the eyes of world public opinion for not signing the safeguards pact.

Further on Blix News Conference

JN1002114292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—Professor Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], has asserted that the Syrian Government has expressed its belief in the principle of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and its sincere desire to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

These statements emerged during a news conference held by Prof. Blix last night. The news conference was attended by Dr. Ibrahim Haddad, director general of the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission; Dr. Muhammad Barad'i, chief of foreign relations for the IAEA; and a number of journalists and correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies.

Prof. Blix stated: The Syrian Government has said that it fully supports the IAEA's system of safeguards, and has expressed its willingness to cooperate fully with the IAEA regarding the implementation of the comprehensive safeguards pact.

He added that Syria's approval of the comprehensive safeguards pact is a positive step forward toward a general acceptance of the comprehensive safeguards in the Middle East.

Blix said that the IAEA's ongoing efforts to enhance and to reinforce the effectiveness of the comprehensive safeguards system in the Middle East, and in the world in general, would give further guarantees and would strengthen confidence in the comprehensive peaceful use of nuclear material and the nuclear installations that are subject to the safeguards.

Prof. Blix affirmed that his visit to Syria was successful and had achieved its expected results. He said: I have discussed with Syrian officials the use of nuclear energy in Syria. He added that mutual assurances were given about the use of nuclear energy and its applications in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and industry in Syria. He also noted that IAEA support for this is beneficial for Syria.

He pointed out that Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had informed him that Syria has agreed to reach a comprehensive safeguards pact in accordance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Prof. Blix said that he appreciates Syria's position in this regard.

The foreign minister also informed Prof. Blix that the (?small) research reactor project, which is on the agenda of the IAEA Board of Governors, will be subject to the safeguards pact.

Prof. Blix noted that—in accordance with the mission entrusted to him by the IAEA General Conference—he

had discussed with the foreign minister the arrangements for the comprehensive guarantees that might be implemented in the Middle East.

Asked if Syria's agreement to sign the comprehensive safeguards pact will help it to obtain electrical power, and what assistance the IAEA can give to Syria in this regard, Prof. Blix said: Many countries have signed the safeguards pact in a way similar to the agreement between the IAEA and Syria. The IAEA can render assistance in using nuclear energy to generate electricity, particularly in areas of training, expertise, and nuclear safety.

Commenting on the possibility of unannounced visits to Syria by IAEA experts, Prof. Blix said: There is a possibility for such visits in the future. However, we generally pay our visits in accordance with prior appointments, given that most of the inspection work takes place according to a program agreed upon in advance.

Asked whether the Middle East could become an area free from nuclear weapons in light of Israel's refusal to honor the IAEA laws, Blix responded: All Middle Eastern states have supported the UN resolutions with regard to establishing a region free from nuclear weapons. Armament control in the Middle East is on the agenda of the peace conference for the region. I believe that if these talks continue, it will be possible and necessary to reach arrangements against nuclear weapons and their proliferation in the region.

When asked whether—in accordance with these measures—Israel will sign the comprehensive safeguards pact, Blix said: Yes, this is one possible method. However, it is also possible to sign an agreement that would serve the same objective as that pertaining to Latin America and the two parts of Korea.

Asked about the Syrian officials' response to the subjects raised by IAEA officials, Blix said that Syria is determined to take advantage of nuclear energy and to use it for peaceful purposes. Syria is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and has made a positive step with its acceptance to sign the safeguards agreement with the IAEA, he added.

He said: Of course, we will not dictate conditions to any country. With regard to the inspection process, we have discussed with Syrian officials the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This matter requires supervision and inspection measures more comprehensive than the general safeguards system which we have been applying in accordance with the treaty on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This region has its own conditions and, therefore, the parties involved may need to gain further confidence through inspection. In the end, the parties in the region must first agree on the political issues and then we will apply the safeguards system. For our part, we have presented our viewpoint on the subject to them.

Asked if the comprehensive safeguards could reach a level where nuclear weapons throughout the world would be dismantled, he said: No. The safeguards are limited to measures to check that member states do not employ nuclear activities for military purposes. Therefore, the IAEA is not concerned about the dismantling of weapons or any other measures.

Asked whether this means that the possession of nuclear weapons contradicts the signing of the safeguards treaty with the IAEA, Blix said: No. Of course, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty prohibits states from acquiring nuclear weapons. The safeguards system, however, checks whether or not there are countries possessing nuclear weapons. The safeguards system exists to prevent any abuse of the treaty. If such abuse is discovered, the matter will be presented to IAEA officials and then to the UN Security Council.

He said that Israel is one of the countries which did not join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Blix added that the IAEA's efforts will continue on a political level to convince such countries to join the treaty.

Asked if Syria's signing of the safeguards pact would constitute pressure on Israel, Blix said: This may constitute another kind of pressure on Israel and isolate it in the eyes of world public opinion and within the international public arena. Syria's approval is a positive step.

Al-Asad, Lebanese Leaders Hold Summit Meeting

Al-Hirawi Arrives

NC0802123392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived at Damascus Airport at 0930 today, accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He was welcomed by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Following the reception, the two presidents proceeded to Tishrin Palace, where they held a meeting attended on the Syrian side by Khaddam and al-Shar' and on the Lebanese side by Buwayz.

The summit will discuss Lebanese and Arab developments, particularly the bilateral negotiations on the eve of the third round, which is scheduled to take place in Washington on 24 February. AFP has cited the Lebanese presidential office as saying that the summit will also discuss the political, economic, and security situation in Lebanon.

The last Lebanese-Syrian summit was held on 5 December.

Talks Commence

JN0802133592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, arrived in Damascus at 0930 today. He was received at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'.

The two presidents drove in a motorcade to the People's Palace, where they held a meeting that was attended by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq al-Shar' for Syria, and Faris Buwayz for Lebanon.

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed their talks at 1230 today in a meeting at the People's Palace. This meeting was also attended by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq al-Shar' for Syria, and Faris Buwayz for Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met at noon today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They exchanged views and discussed the peace process and the prospects for future bilateral talks in Washington.

Peace Process Discussed

JN0802181992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 8 Feb (SANA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, arrived in Damascus at 0930 today. [passage omitted]

The Syrian and Lebanese presidents resumed their talks in a closed meeting at the People's Palace at 1600 today. During their three meetings, which took place within the framework of cooperation and coordination between Syria and Lebanon, the two sides reviewed developments in the region as well as the latest situation the peace process has reached because of the Israeli Government's positions, which are hostile to peace and which are hampering the peace process. They stressed the importance of joint coordination and cooperation during the next stage.

They also reviewed developments in the international arena as well as bilateral issues. The two presidents voiced their satisfaction with relations and cooperation between the two countries.

A luncheon banquet was given in honor of President al-Hirawi. It was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', State Minister for Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Damascus at 1815 today. He was seen off by President Hafiz al-Asad. Also present at the airport were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the deputy prime minister for services affairs, and a number of other ministers

Al-Zu'bi Heads Delegation to Talks in Cairo

JN0702125992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi left Damascus for Cairo this afternoon at the head of a governmental delegation on a four-day official and cordial visit to Egypt. The trip is being made at the invitation of Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, so that Prime Minister al-Zu'bi to chair the meeting of the joint Syrian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which will be held in Cairo.

The Syrian delegation comprises Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Higher Education Minister Dr. Kamal Sharaf; Transportation Minister Yusuf al-Ahmad; Minister of Industry Antoine Jubran; Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini. The delegation also includes a number of consultants and technicians.

Foreign Minister on Moscow Talks, Peace Process

NC0702131592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, 6 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' has emphasized that Syria did not participate in the Moscow multilateral negotiations because the bilateral talks did not produce the required results: Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Before leaving Larnaca, he told the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, published today, that the Moscow talks are not part of the peace process, because the process rests on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

He added that Moscow's only results were gains for Israel at the expense of the Arab states. Al-Shar' indicated that the more concessions are made to Israel, the more intransigent the Israelis will be.

Al-Shar' said: Syria is committed to its firm stand on the peace process, while reviewing the means and methods leading to that process. We believe that the Syrian stand is widely understood by the Arabs, and internationally.

He said: Following my meetings in Larnaca on the sidelines of the Nonaligned Ministerial Conference, especially those I had with the Arab parties who went to Moscow, I am more convinced that these Arab delegations are greatly disappointed and wish to revive Arab coordination to confront Israeli intransigence in the next phase.

He added that Syria is now seriously studying the American assurances and reviewing them with the U.S. side to urge it to do what it can to push the peace process forward.

Baker Statement on Settlements Reported

JN0902070492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Washington—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced at dawn today that his country unequivocally wants Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories in return for granting it the loan guarantees.

In an interview with the American television network CNN, Baker added that the Israelis must put an end to settlement activities. This is our policy, he said. Baker also announced for the first time that amounts equal to the funds earmarked for completion of settlements already under construction must be deducted from the aid to be granted to Israel. He noted that the granting of the guarantees must be contingent on halting any new settlement building.

Commenting on these remarks, AFP said that Baker's statement refutes press reports which had indicated that the United States would agree to the completion of the settlements currently under construction without insisting on a decisive agreement on the issue. Baker affirmed that the United States, which grants Israel $3 billion in aid annually, has consistently criticized settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have been occupied by Israel since 1967.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Trying To Defuse Tension in North

BK0802102092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Kabul, Feb 8 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah sent emissaries to a northern province in a bid to resolve a dispute between pro-government militia and the military which has led to tension in the area, informed sources said Saturday.

The delegation went to Balkh Province early this week to negotiate an end to the stand-off between top militia commander Abdol Rashid Dostam and Colonel General Juma Ashek, military commander of the northern theatre, the sources said.

"The government delegation returned to Kabul two days ago, but it is not clear if they made any progress towards resolving the issue," a diplomatic source said.

According to the sources, the confrontation in Balkh developed in the third week in January after Ashek, a Pashtun, tried to replace Major General Mumin, a member of the Tajik community and commander of the Heiraton garrison in Balkh, with a Pashtun officer.

Dostam, a member of yet a different community, the Uzbeks, immediately sided with Mumin and began mustering support from non-Pashtun ethnic groups which predominate in Afghanistan's north.

The sources said Major General Sayyed Jaffar Naderi, who commands an Islamili militia group, had pledged support to Dostam.

Dostam heads the Uzbek militia from Jowzjan Province adjoining Balkh, and is credited with helping the military achieve a series of successes against Pakistan-based mojahedin rebels, most of whom are Pashtun.

Tension was mainly evident in the Balkh capital of Mazar-I-Sharif, which has an airport essential for trading and resupply.

Informed sources said Mumin remained in charge of the Heiraton garrison, a key trading point on Afghanistan's northern frontier, in spite of having been served replacement orders.

Diplomatic sources described the situation as extremely delicate as disturbances in Heiraton could affect food prices in Kabul, and more significantly because ethnic tensions could, as they have in the past, spill over into the Afghan military and Najibollah's factionalised Watan party.

UN Envoy Optimistic About End to Afghan War

BK0702133192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 7 (AFP)—U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan Benon Sevan said Friday that chances for peace were "brighter than ever before" following his talks with leaders of Afghan groups in exile in Pakistan.

Sevan said in a statement that his talks with Afghan leaders were "constructive and encouraging" but to dispel an impression among hardliners that the United Nations was trying to impose a peace plan he stressed a solution to the conflict was up "to the Afghans themselves to decide."

U.N. Secretary General Butros Butros Ghali was "merely encouraging and assisting" the Afghans in their own efforts to find a peaceful settlement of the 13-year old conflict, Sevan said.

"At no time had the United Nations tried to impose any solution on the Afghan people, nor would it do so in future," Sevan told resistance leaders, including hardliners like Golbuddin Hekmatyar and Yunis Khalis.

Sevan also met with Shiite leaders, members of a clergy council, writers, former diplomats, and intellectuals during his four days of talks in Peshawar. He is to visit Kabul next week to hold talks with various groups including the government of President Najibollah.

The U.N. official briefed the leaders on the January 27 statement by Butros Ghali urging an Afghan assembly to discuss "a transitional mechanism leading to a broad-based government through free and fair elections."

Some hardline resistance leaders had earlier opposed the U.N. initiative, with Hekmatyar calling the plan an international conspiracy to deny Afghan Moslems a government of their choice.

Sevan said he was confident that concerns expressed by some of the people he met during the talks would be resolved.

"Chances for a political settlement to this 13-year conflict are looking brighter than ever," he said.

He has invited 150 Afghans to finalise the composition of the proposed assembly to be made up of representatives from all segments of society.

The statement said several groups and leaders have promised to communicate suggestions about the participants of the mini-assembly, expected to meet in a third country sometime in April.

The group of 150 could lead to forming "a commission to work on the details and structure of a transitional period and an Islamic interim government," it said.

Resistance sources said Sevan has urged the participation of second ranking religious and resistance leaders and intellectuals including Afghans residing in Western countries in the gathering.

The group will discuss the composition of a broader assembly which would "preferably meet inside Afghanistan," resistance sources Thursday quoted Sevan as saying.

It will prepare drafts for appointment of an interim government and a mechanism for transfer of power in Kabul, they said.

Other sources said the group will include people from Kabul also, but the pro-resistance news agency MIDIA said they would not be representatives of Najibollah's government.

Keshtmand Attacked by 'Unidentified Assailant'

LD0702172992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The country's security authorities report that Soltan Ali Keshtmand, ex-prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who participated in a condolence ceremony held in Emam Hasan Moshtabah Mosque, in Qala-e [word indistinct]—attached to the sixth ward of the city of Kabul—was attacked by an unidentified person today at around 1500 as he was leaving the mosque. As a result, he was injured and then transferred to a hospital. A relevant source told BAKHTAR that an authoritative commission has been set up to [words indistinct] investigate the situation. (?The attacker) escaped the scene of the crime. The results of the investigation will be published.

Bangladesh

Unscheduled Border Talks Held With Burma

BK0902081892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Feb 9 (AFP)—Border officials from Bangladesh and Burma held an unscheduled round of talks near here to alleviate tensions between the two countries, security officials said Sunday.

"Burmese border officials suddenly came across with a flag and gifts and we talked inside Bangladesh," one official told AFP, adding that the talks were at a lower level than those held last month.

Relations between Dhaka and Rangoon strained over a border incident in December that left four Bangladeshis dead. Rangoon denies involvement in the incident, which followed the year-long flight of thousands of Burmese Muslim refugees.

The officer said it indicated further improvement of bilateral ties and diffusion of border tension.

The third round of border talks were held in a Burmese border town held January 28.

Pakistani Air Force Chief Arrives on Visit

BK0802022692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a week-long goodwill visit to Bangladesh. He is leading a four-member delegation. During the visit, Pakistan's air force chief will call on the president and the prime minister. He will also call on the chiefs of the three services.

Meets Army, Air Force Chiefs

BK0802160692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The visiting chief of the Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, called on the chief of the Bangladesh Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury, in Dhaka today. The Pakistani air chief also called on the chief of army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

India

Security Increased Over Kashmir Events

Defense Minister Warns Pakistan

BK0702125092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The defense minister has warned Pakistan of serious consequences if it encourages the followers of Amanullah Khan [leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] to cross the line of actual control in Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Bombay after commissioning the country's first indigenously built submarine, Shalki, Mr. Sharad Pawar said both the countries are committed not to allow anybody to cross the line of actual control under the Simla Agreement and it is the duty of Pakistan to stop any such move. He warned that if Islamabad fails to act, the Indian defense forces will do it.

Referring to the recent meeting between the Indian and the Pakistani prime ministers, Mr. Sharad Pawar said that India believes in the solution of any outstanding issue through bilateral discussions.

'Thousands' of Kashmiris Rally

BK0702135092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Feb 7 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmiris rallied here Friday to support a proposed

march from Pakistan to Indian-held Kashmir, as New Delhi threatened to use force if the marchers crossed the international border.

An estimated 20,000 Kashmiris cheered a top guerrilla leader when he declared that the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) would not back down from its threatened procession Tuesday, despite a ban by Pakistan.

"Anyone who obstructs the march...will find his place among the enemies of the Kashmiri nation," witnesses quoted JKLF chief Javed Ahmad Mir as telling an emotionally charged gathering at the Hazratbal mosque here.

Mir, who is wanted by Indian authorities, mingled in the crowd and disappeared after the brief speech in which he reiterated the JKLF demand that Kashmir be free of both Indian and Pakistani control. He told the crowd the campaign for an independent Kashmir was gaining global support and that most countries "were already impressed by the genuineness of the movement."

Ownership of Kashmir is disputed by India and Pakistan, and the two South Asian neighbours have gone to war twice over the Moslem- dominated state.

Mir urged JKLF chairman Amanullah Khan, who lives in Pakistan and is now reportedly in hiding, to go ahead with the proposed march despite Islamabad's pledge to stop it.

Before disappearing into the crowd, Mir shouted "Kashmir will become independent", and the gathering roared back, witnesses said. Several Kashmiris also chanted: "Amanullah Khan go ahead, we are with you."

The JKLF is the leading guerrilla group in Kashmir and wants the whole of the picturesque state to become an independent nation. Other Moslem groups want the Indian-held Kashmir to accede to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

EC Asks Pakistan To Hinder Crossing

BK0702145692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The European Community [EC] has called on Pakistani authorities to ensure that the Line of Control is not crossed by demonstrators of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] on Tuesday [11 February]. In a memorandum, the member-states of the community also asked Islamabad to take the necessary steps to prevent such moves.

A copy of the memorandum was handed over to the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in New Delhi today by the envoys of the troika of the EC—Portugal, Holland, and Britain—and the EEC ambassador.

Congress-I, CPI Criticize Pakistan

BK0702150692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Congress-I has described as highly provocative the recent move by Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, especially at the time of elections in Punjab. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi, the party spokesman, Professor Thakur, said the UN Security Council must make every action necessary to stop Pakistan from sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has condemned the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif's continued support to the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] activists. In a statement in New Delhi, the party general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, urged India and Pakistan to solve the Kashmir issue through negotiations.

'No Change' in Government Stand

BK0702160092 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1548 GMT 7 Feb 92

["Spokesman's response to a question on the 'call by India for UN help' in connection with the Kashmir issue dated 7/2/92"]

[Text] In response to a query as to whether India is trying to internationalize the issue of JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] call to cross the Line of Control bordering India, the spokesman clarified that there is no change whatsoever in the government's position. It would be inaccurate to interpret, as a section of the press has done, the foreign secretary's meetings with ambassadors of friendly countries, as an attempt to invoke the assistance of third party or seek a role for the UN. There is no change in the government's position. The foreign secretary's continuing meetings with the envoys of friendly countries are with a view to apprising them of the various acts of commission and omission by the POK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir] authorities and the Government of Pakistan, which are tantamount to blatant interference in our internal affairs and which only serve to inflame passions, to incite people to acts of violence and to raise tensions in the region in general and between India and Pakistan in particular. The foreign secretary's continuing meetings are also designed to remove or allay any misapprehension about India's determination to seek a peaceful solution to all pending issues with Pakistan, in the spirit of Simla Agreement, notwithstanding all provocations and equally, India's determination to resist with all appropriate firmness, any effort to infringe the country's sovereignty or to violate its borders.

The spokesman further stated that the ambassadors of the EC troika—Portugal, Netherlands and Britain—and EEC ambassador herself, called on Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, the minister of state for external affairs, this afternoon.

They handed over to the minister of state a memorandum which states the following:

A) The European Community and its member states expressed concern over the proposed march by the JKLF on the 11th of February in an attempt to cross the Line of Control. The concern of the "twelve" has already been adequately expressed in Islamabad:

B) The troika of the European Community call on the Pakistani authorities to take necessary steps to ensure that the Line of Control is not crossed by demonstrators: and

C) The European Community and its member states urge the Government of India to ensure that utmost restraint is exercised and that no disproportionate force is used against demonstrators by security forces patrolling the Line of Control.

Curfew Along Kashmir Border

BK0802031492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, patroling has been intensified all along the 280-km Line of Control and night curfew imposed strictly along the five-km belt to thwart any attempt of infiltration by the Pakistan based so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]. All travelers in this area are being screened thoroughly.

The direct general of state police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, has said the sanctity of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will be protected at all costs. Talking to newsmen in Jammu, Mr. Bedi said the people in Kashmir valley are now coming out to give information about the militants whose activities have created hardships for the common man. He said those giving shelter to militants will be strictly dealt with.

The state governor, Mr. G.C. Saxesa, met the prime minister in New Delhi yesterday evening and apprised him of the situation in the state, including security arrangements.

Meanwhile, ANI [ASIA NEWS INTERNATIONAL] quoting defense sources in Islamabad said Pakistan has placed a number of infantry and artillery brigades in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in a state of alert.

'No Dialogue' on Kashmir

BK0802144892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has said India is fully prepared to meet any nuclear threat from Pakistan. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said the disclosure of the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, in Washington about the nuclear capability of his country has not come as a surprise to India. Mr. Solanki said security is of paramount concern of New Delhi and India's defense preparedness will not lack in any respect to meet the threat. He also said that the government is monitoring the situation and keeping a close watch.

Mr. Solanki categorically stated there can be no dialogue on the Kashmir issue as long as Islamabad abetted terrorism and secessionism in Punjab and Kashmir. He said the situation on the border is under control and there is not much (?concentration) of JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] demonstrators. Mr. Solanki said New Delhi has taken note of the Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif's call on Wednesday for a nationwide strike despite his meeting with Mr. Narasimha Rao in Davos, and his provocative statement in Muzaffarabad which heightened tension on the border. He said India will not compromise on its territorial integrity and will not tolerate any interference in its internal affairs.

Officers Review Security Situation

BK0902032892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a constant vigil is being maintained by the security forces all along the India-Pakistan border. Senior officers of the Army, the BSF [Border Security Force] and the state police met in Srinagar yesterday to review the security arrangements to foil any attempt of border violation by the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] on Tuesday [11 Febryary].

The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has said Pakistan should stop interfering in Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of India. He was talking to reporters at Mana Airport in Raipur on his way to Hyderabad.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has convened the meeting of the opposition parties leaders in New Delhi tomorrow. It will discuss the recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, yesterday cut short his Bombay visit and rushed to New Delhi for a meeting with the prime minister. Later on, he refused to comment whether the Kashmir situation was discussed.

'Provocative Signals' From Pakistan

BK0902082492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has expressed concern over the provocative signals coming from Pakistan. In an interview to BBC, he said the rallies held in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir earlier this month and the provocative statements made by Pakistan leaders on the so-called struggle in Kashmir are a cause for concern to New Delhi. Mr. Dixit said Islamabad seems to think that it can create a serious situation to attract international attention to the Kashmir issue. He made it clear that there is no question of India compromising on its territorial integrity.

Government 'In Contact' With Islamabad

BK0902085692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has asserted that India will protect its border, and is fully prepared in case the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] tries to cross the line of actual control in Kashmir. Talking to newspersons near Belgaon in Karnataka today, he hoped that Islamabad will stop the JKLF from going ahead with its plan. Mr. Pawar said that both the governments are in contact with each other to avoid precipitation of a crisis.

Replying to a question on whether India foresees any nuclear threat from Pakistan in the context of JKLF activities, the defense minister said that India does not foresee any such threat but is prepared to face any challenge.

Rao Convenes Intraparty Meeting

BK0902162592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister has convened an all-party meeting in the capital tomorrow to review the situation following the call given by the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] to cross the line of actual control in Kashmir. Disclosing this to newspersons at Guruvayur in Kerala on way to the Minicoy Island, Mr. Narasimha Rao said a joint statement will be issued after the meeting, explaining the stand of the government and that of the political parties on the issue. Mr. Rao declared categorically that the country is ready to face any threat from Pakistan. In Minicoy Island, the prime minister inaugurated a village house for women. He also discussed problems of the island people with local leaders. Mr. Rao cleared an 11-point program of his party for the development of Laccadives.

Later, addressing a meeting in the island, Mr. Narasimha Rao asserted that India will not part with an inch of its territory to any country. He pointed out that India with its 5,000 years of heritage never annexed another country's territory. Mr. Rao said we want peaceful coexistence with other countries but will never allow anybody to invade our land. The prime minister called upon the people to unitedly support the government's effort to face the challenges. The meeting was organized to mark the silver jubilee of Mr. P.M. Sayeed representing the union territory in the Lok Sabha.

Parties Condemn Planned March

BK0902164392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has welcomed the center's decision to hold an all-party meeting tomorrow to discuss the issues arising out of the developments in Kashmir. Expressing concern over the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] plan to cross the line of actual control, he told newsmen in Coimbatore that all political parties are united on the Kashmir issue and on the question of defending the country's borders and its sovereignty.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Jaswant Singh, has said that the recent tension over the line of actual control on the Kashmir border is a deliberate attempt by Pakistan to interfere in India's internal affairs. He was speaking to newsmen in Mangalore today.

Various political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have condemned the proposed move of the so-called JKLF to cross the line of actual control. In separate statements, the Samajwadi Janata Party, the Youth Congress-I, and the youth wing of the Panthers Party have urged the government to take stern measures to thwart their evil designs.

A top JKLF activist, Javed Ahmad Mir, has issued a statement accusing Pakistan of adopting double standards and said Kashmiris will not be fooled by Islamabad anymore. He said that Pakistan has wilted under pressure from India in ordering prevention of march across the line of actual control.

'Strict Vigil' on Line of Control

BK1002034492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] An all-party meeting is being held in New Delhi today to review the situation arising out of the so-called JKLF's [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] call to cross the line of actual control in Kashmir. A joint statement will be issued after the meeting explaining the stand of the government and the political parties on the issue. The prime minister, who has convened the meeting, said the country is ready to face any threat from Pakistan. Addressing a meeting in Minicoy island in Lakshadweep yesterday, Mr. Narasimha Rao urged the people to stand united and resolute in facing the danger from across the border.

An official spokesman said in Srinagar that a strict vigil will be maintained along the line of actual control despite Pakistan's announcement to ban the so-called JKLF's march tomorrow. The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Saxena, went back to Srinagar yesteray after detailed discussions with central leaders in New Delhi on the security situation.

Meanwhile, reports say there have been clashes between Pakistani police and the supporters of the so-called JKLF. The police is reported to have arrested about 40 JKLF supporters in a bid to prevent them from reaching Muzaffarabad in Pak-occupied Kashmir. Police and paramilitary forces are also stopping buses carrying JKLF supporters. The prime minister of the Pak-occupied Kashmir, Mr. Abdul Qayyum Khan, has advised the JKLF supporters not to cross the line of

actual control. In an interview with Pakistan TV, he has expressed the fear that the move might boomerang and result in a war.

Pakistan 'Responsible' for Consequences

BK1002050892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Inder Malhotra commentary]

[Text] Tomorrow will show whether or not Pakistan is sincere about preventing the provocative and potentially disastrous violation of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistan-based sponsors and supporters of terror and secession in Kashmir. If this (?affront) is effectively averted, the high tension might subside and the India-Pakistan dialogue might yet get back on the rails. If this does not happen, Pakistan will be entirely responsible for the catastrophic consequences, for India just would not countenance the aggressive and malign crossing the line of control no matter of what.

Under the Simla agreement, both India and Pakistan are categorically committed to respecting the line of control. There can be no going back on that. In all fairness, it must be stated that there are responsible people in Pakistan who realize that Amanullah Khan, the leader of the so-called JKLF, is forcing Pakistan to play with fire and thus with its own safety and future. But, quite clearly, some sensible elements have of late been outshouted by bigheads; also within the Pakistani ruling establishment there seems to be a struggle for power, which alone can explain how the situation has been allowed to get practically out of hand. It is in this context that just before the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, had a cordial enough meeting at Davos in Switzerland, the Pakistani ambassador in New Delhi gave a provocative and offensive interview to a Delhi newspaper. And within a few hours of the Davos dialogue, Mr. Nawaz Sharif himself gave a call for a countrywide strike during which he made inflammatory speeches, while others spewed even greater venom.

The whole atmosphere in Pakistan has been rendered so frenzied that the country is on the verge of a brink beyond which lies an abyss. Wisdom lies in withdrawing from the brink. Interestingly, the Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, chose the moment of high tension to confirm officially, what the wide world has known all along, that Pakistan is only a turn of the screw driver away from making the nuclear bomb. The foreign minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, has taken note of both this statement and its timing. He has also stated that India would adequately take care of whatever threat Pakistan chooses to pose. The warning should be clear enough. A further question arises: if Pakistan already has the bomb, what sense does it make to talk of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia?

'Selected Areas' of Kashmir Line Mined

BK1002084892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has warned of serious consequences if anyone attempts to cross the Line of Control tomorrow. An official spokesman said in Jammu today that the violation of the Line of Control will not be allowed at any cost. The spokesman said that the likely routes of infiltration are under close watch by the security forces. He said selected areas along the Line of Control have already been mined.

Rao—Pakistan Not To Permit Crossing

BK1002124792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister is meeting all party leaders in New Delhi to review the situation arising out of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] call to cross the Line of Control in Kashmir. In his opening address to the leaders, he informed them that he has received a message from Pakistan that they will not allow the JKLF activists to cross the Line of Control.

Right-Wing Hindu Party Office in Bombay Bombed

BK1002085892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says one Shiv Senik [member of rightwing Hindu party] was killed and four injured in a powerful bomb blast in the Shiva Sena office premises in northeast Bombay today. According to the report the bomb was placed in an air bag. Top police officials rushed to the scene immediately. The police commissioner, Mr. Ramamurthy, has said the bomb was similar to the one that exploded last year at a Shiva Sena's office at Kurla.

Iran

Khamene'i Assails U.S. Global Policy

LD0702154192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and Armed Forces commander-in-chief, to members of the Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the Law Enforcement Forces, on the occasion of Guards Day and the anniversary of the birth of Imam Husayn]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In the world today you can see the (?rabid behavior) of the enemies, colonialists, and hegemonists, and the clashes all over the world. In the midst of the stormy waves, one nation wishes not to be influenced, but to

influence and defeat and calm the waves. That nation should be of steel and clay. And that cannot be achieved without spirituality. [passage omitted]

Today the duty of the Guards Corps and the revolutionary forces wherever they are—in the Corps, the Army, the Law Enforcement Forces, the Armed Forces—is to be constructive. Today we have a duty to be constructive. Today, although we are not ostensibly at war and are not involved in a military clash, the arrogant world is grappling with us in numerous arenas. The arrogant world is betraying humanity today. They are, as usual, lying to, deceiving, and fooling mankind. Today, when there is talk of problems of mankind, arrogance, headed by American politicians, pursues things relating to secondary ailments and pains of mankind, to cover up man's primary ailments so that no one notices them. They sit around, hold meetings and discussions about what to do about the nuclear issue and nuclear war in the world, or the environment. Are those man's primary problems? Today, the nuclear threat is not an urgent and immediate threat to mankind. What the nuclear threat stems from and follows is the threat of the arrogant power and bullying.

Since the atom was discovered, who has used that force to harm nations? And it will always be so. Either they make an atom bomb and use it, as the Americans did at the end of World War II to the Japanese, or there is a leak, like that which once occurred at a Soviet plant. They killed a large number of people because of nuclear radiation. If there is any harm from the atom, it comes from the uncontrolled power of the superpowers. If you limit America's arrogant power in the world, the nuclear threat will automatically be curbed. [crowd chants: God is Great; Khamene'i is the leader; Death to America; Death to Britain; Death to Israel; Death to Hypocrites]

What really constitutes a danger for the world nations today is the daily increasing hegemony of America over them. On what basis do they give themselves the right to interfere in the affairs of other nations so much? What kind of license has the arrogant American power acquired to speak for other countries, to express views about them, and to interfere in their domestic affairs? And meanwhile, they have recently raised, albeit sheepishly, the issue of the interference of the United Nations in the elections of the free countries—those which hold elections.

They intend to set up a presidium for the world. But they must know that the nations will not accept a temporal presidium on a worldwide basis. [crowd chants: Death to America, Israel].

The heads of the states that are members of the Security Council sit down to make decisions for the whole world. What has it got to do with you? Its name is the United Nations; its name is the Security Council. But in reality it is the member-states with the right to veto who intend to be masters of the world; in reality it is America which wants to do so. [crowd shouts: Death to America]

They have been going on interfering all along. They have even interfered militarily; they have crossed borders, brought in soldiers and military forces. They done so in the Middle East, in Latin America. They do so all over the world. They set up bases where they please. They do as they please, which is unacceptable to intelligent people of the world. A handful of the surrogate and dependent heads of some countries may accept it, but the nations will not. The nations may not be able to raise their voice to show reaction, but the heads of the American regime must know that in so doing they are digging deeper into the well which is being dug under their feet.

What do you mean suggesting that the nations must wait for the representatives of some foreign governments from the far end of the world to come over to supervise the work of the nations, their affairs, even their elections? There is no logic for such a suggestion, except the logic of force. Is it different from the law of the jungle? Has humanity gone through long phases of civilization to arrive at the law of the jungle? That, too, by self-appointed guardians of all good things? They speak for progress, human rights, and other good things but unfortunately, those who lack all these things are the ones who make such claims. That is the greatest calamity afflicting humanity. So long as America has not been confined within its own frontiers—as the government of a country .... [incomplete sentence as heard]. You have a country which is, well, quite rich, and you are the government there. That is all right; but live your own lives. What have you got to do with other nations? So long as America, as an aggressionist superpower, is not confined within its own frontiers, humanity will not experience tranquillity.

Muslim nations in particular must know that that is their main problem. That is the main problem. They [the "arrogant" powers] are immensely frightened of Islam; they have seen the manifestation of Islam; they have seen the spirituality of Islam; they have seen the decisiveness of Islam; they have seen that the real Muslims, like you and this nation, are indefatigable. They are afraid of it. They intend not to allow that experience to be repeated elsewhere. Naturally, they lie in wait to impair and destroy, if they can, this great gift that Islam has offered to the Iranian nation. They will act upon it to the extent that their power allows. They are waiting to seize on every opportunity to do so.

You should look at the problems from that angle; all of us and in particular you, the Guardsmen and revolutionary forces, must look at the problems from that angle. Minor, personal, and material issues are of secondary importance. You must endure material hardship for the sake of great objectives. That is the path that will lead a nation to the peak of progress. And that is what made Islam victorious in its beginning. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Urges Armenia, Azerbaijan To End War

LD0702205192 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi here Friday expressed regret over the ongoing destructive war between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. "Resources of the two newly-independent republics should be employed to tackle their problems," he added.

Sarmadi said Iran will use all her efforts to settle the disputes between the two republics following an earlier request by the senior officials of the two republics calling on Iran to mediate.

"If no solution is found, continuation of the clashes between these two new neighbours of the Islamic Republic will encourage the hegemonic powers to interfere in the region," Sarmadi warned.

He renewed Iran's appeal to the two republics to exercise self-restraint and turn to peaceful solutions instead of military clashes. "The Islamic Republic will spare no effort to put out the fire of hostility."

Azerbaijan Seeks Mediation Help

LD0902190592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] In a meeting with Majlis Speaker Karrubi today, Mr. Karayev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan, called for the support of Iran's government and people in the realization of Islamic programs in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He also requested that the Islamic Republic of Iran act as mediator in solving territorial disputes between the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Karrubi pointed to the deep ties between the two nations and stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran will do all it can to support and back the world's Muslims.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Velayati

LD0802120992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Raffi Ovannisyan, the Republic of Armenia's foreign affairs minister, met with our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr. Velayati, today and explained the special situation in Armenia and particualarly the problem of Karabakh. He said: We seek a peaceful solution to that problem, and we call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to use its influence to solve that problem.

The Armenian foreign affairs minister referred to the point that Armenia attaches special importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: We are ready to expand our relations with Iran in all fields and for that purpose an economic delegation has come to Iran.

He also stressed cooperation in oil-related fields, border exchanges, expansion of road links, railroads, the telecommunications network, and cooperation between the two countries' banks.

The Armenian foreign affairs minister also expressed the willingness of his country to take part in international and regional organizations, particularly membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to support his country in those regards.

Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, also welcomed the expansion of relations between Iran and Armenia and expressed regret at the occurrence of clashes between Armenia and Azarbaijan. He said: We believe that those clashes are not to the benefit of either sides.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister added: Azerbaijan also has requested the mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve that problem. We shall investigate the issue and do our best to solve that problem.

The Armenian foreign affairs minister arrived in Tehran this morning and ministers of Industries, Transportation, Health, Commerce, and the mayor of Yerevan, and a number of deputies and director generals of various Armenian ministries accompany him.

Seeks Help in Ending Strife

LD0902225292 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA—Visiting Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan in a meeting with Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh last night announced his country's readiness for economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Ovanesyan, who is here at the head of a high-ranking delegation which includes the ministers of industry, transport, health and trade as well as Yerevan's mayor, called on the Islamic Republic to make necessary arrangements for bilateral banking and customs cooperation.

Nurbakhsh welcomed Armenia's request adding that Iran was ready to set up economic relations with the newly-independent Armenian state on the basis of mutual interests.

Earlier Saturday, Ovanesyan held talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and requested Tehran to use its influence to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan bloody dispute.

Iran borders both Muslim Azerbaijan and Christian Armenia.

Joint Statement on Ties

NC1002072992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] A joint statement on the commencement of diplomatic relations and a memorandum of understanding on economic and cultural cooperation were signed today during a meeting between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Armenia in Tehran.

The statement emphasizes the opening of the two countries' embassies and political, economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation between Tehran and Yerevan. The memorandum of understanding discusses the commencement of border relations between the two countries, the export of Iranian gas to Armenia, the establishment of a refinery, the training of Armenian experts in Iran, and joint investments.

During his meeting with Velayati, the Armenian foreign minister described his visit to Tehran as positive. Commenting on his nation's problems with Azerbaijan and on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, he said: We hope to be able to reestablish peace in the region with the assistance and mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Velayati emphasized that the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia should be stopped, adding: The Islamic Republic of Iran will carry out its duty to extinguish the flame of war between the two neighboring countries.

IAEA Official Favors Bushehr Reactor Completion

LD0802213192 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 8, IRNA—Deputy Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Jon Jennekens said today that the completion of the Bushehr nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes would be in the interest of Iran and the IAEA.

During a visit to the site, he said Iran enjoys adequate skilled manpower to complete and put into operation the nuclear reactor in this southern port city.

Jennekens who said he was here at the invitation of Iranian officials to get acquainted with Iran's atomic capabilities, lauded the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization for its "best efforts" for maintenance of the plant's components particularly those of higher priority.

Jennekens said that as a top IAEA official, he believes that electricity should be generated by means of nuclear reactors.

Khomeyni Condemns 'Suppression' of Muslims

LD0802114792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Thousands of teachers, trainers, and students from Tehran's 20 educational areas today met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

Finally, condemning the suppression of Muslims in Algeria, he considered the objective of the rulers of that country to be the stemming of the growth of true Islam in Algeria.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepalese Party Supporters Clash in By-Elections

BK0902134192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 9 (AFP)—Clashes were reported Sunday between ruling Nepali Congress (NC) supporters and those from the rival Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist (NCP) (UML)) as by-elections got underway, officials said.

In the southern Jalpapur area of Sunsari constituency, 290 kilometres (170 miles) southeast of here, police had to fire three rounds of blank ammunition to disperse activists from the two groups. No injuries were reported.

NCP (UML) President Mana Mohan Adhikari said from Sunsari that polling was peaceful in the northern part of the constituency, but "voting manipulations were done in the southern areas, including Kaptangunj, Dewangunj, Gautampur and Jalpapur."

He clarified the NC had hired gangs to terrorize voters and to capture polling booths. An NC source strongly denied the allegation.

A spokesman of the Election Commission said that on an average, voter turnout was below 50 percent in Kathmandu and Sunsari and results should be announced Monday.

Voting began earlier Sunday in the two constituencies with the NC favored to win vacant seats in the House of Representatives.

The NCP (UML) and the pro-Panchayat National Democratic Party are also putting up candidates.

In Kathmandu, seven candidates are vying for the seat left vacant by the Communists' general secretary Madan Bhandari after general elections in May 1990.

In Sunsari NC candidate Prakash Koirala—a nephew of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala—is similarly seen to be in a strong position over his rivals.

The constituency was vacated by his uncle after the May 1990 elections, as the prime minister had also tasted victory in another riding in Morang district.

In Nepal, candidates in general elections can run in more than one constituency. In Bhandari's case, he won in two ridings—including the one now up for grabs.

Pakistan

Khan—Nuclear Program Not for Weapons

BK0802154092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan stated during a meeting with a WASHINGTON POST editorial board that Pakistan has given assurances that its nuclear program is not designed to manufacture weapons. In an interview with an ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN correspondent in New York, the foreign secretary said that the WASHINGTON POST quoted him out of context. He reiterated Pakistan's support for the proposal for a five-nation conference to rid South Asia of nuclear weapons and added that Indian response to this proposal has been negative thus far.

Further on Kashmir Border Crossing Controversy

Bhutto Urges JKLF To Delay Crossing

BK0902032292 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Feb 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Islamabad: The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) senior vice chairman in a meeting Friday with Benazir Bhutto, has strongly criticised the government for not raising the Kashmir issue in United Nations.

The senior vice chairman of JKLF said that the Indian government raised the Kashmir issue in the UN and five Security Council members were approached in this regard. Whereas the government of Pakistan and even the Foreign Office never even bothered to issue any statement on the February 11, call for crossing the Line of Control (LOC).

He said that thousands of Mojahedin will cross the LOC in the presence of International media and a team of United Kingdom observers. He added that if the Indian army opens fire on them, the Indian government will have to face the embarrassment in front of the whole world.

The Pakistan government has asked us not to cross LOC, under the Indian pressure, but we are here to inform you (Bhutto) that if Pakistan army opened fire on them on that very day the Kashmiri Mojahedin will lose faith in Pakistan, and there will be no other option left for them to raise slogans against Pakistan and avoid them in future.

The leader of the opposition told the representative that when she was a prime minister she discussed this matter with Rajiv Gandhi, who told her that Kashmir issue has been solved and we have reached at an agreement with Ziaul Haq. She suggested the senior vice chairman to delay the call for at least six months so that she could write to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Office and make them realise the importance of the situation. She said she will try to raise this issue in every forum especially at international level. She said that she will send former AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] prime minister Mumtaz Rathore on the day of crossing the LOC and he will address the brave Kashmiri mojahedin, furthermore the former prime minister can send Mumtaz Rathore to see the Chairman JKLF and convince him to delay crossing the LOC, who is under ground nowadays. She added that they can just show their power on the day but should delay the plan.

The representative of JKLF thanked the opposition leader about her concern but refused to postpone the announced date for crossing the LOC, saying that it is better that thousands of Kashmiris embrace martyrdom. He added that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto when signed Simla Agreement he said at that time that whenever the Kashmiris start fighting for freedom, he will tear this agreement as it has got no importance and is not more than a piece of paper to him.

Among others who were present in the meeting was Nusrat Bhutto, former prime minister Mumtaz Rathore and the senior vice chairman JKLF Raja Mohammad Muzaffar was accompanied by Dr Hyder Mijazi the meeting continued for more than 45 minutes.

Government To Stop Crossing 'Politely'

BK0902030692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0245 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The government has decided that the crossing of the Line of Control in Kashmir on Tuesday [11 February] will be stopped politely, but with full seriousness. This was decided at a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad last night.

Reaffirming total determination to extend political and moral support for Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, the prime minister said that the response to his strike call last Wednesday [5 February] fully proves this determination. He added that nobody will be allowed to play with the lives of the innocent people and put them in front of the Indian firing squad on the Line of Control. Already many innocent Kashmiris have been martyred because of the inhumane acts by Indian forces.

Referring to the serious violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called upon the international community to pressure India to stop its brutalities against the innocent Kashmiris.

The meeting was attended by Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Mehtab Ahmed Khan, Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki, and high officials of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad Kashmir Chief Warns Against Crossing

BK1002033292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Sardar Sikkander Hayat Khan, the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said the crossing of the Line of Control [LOC] by the people of Azad Kashmir may yield disastrous and negative results. In a statement in Holy Medina, he said the world has now understood that the illegal occupation of Kashmir by India is not at all acceptable to the Kashmiris.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has said peace and stability is essential in the Azad area to strengthen the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a reception in Mirpur yesterday, he said the freedom movement has taken a new turn. Referring to the crossing of the Line of Control, the Azad Kashmir prime minister has said his government has taken a solid stand after much consideration, as the crossing of control line will not benefit the cause of freedom in any way. He said the Kashmir issue should be identified among national disputes and it should be tackled with wisdom and sagacity.

Abdul Rashid Abbasi, the acting president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said every attempt to cross the Line of Control will be prevented in order to save innocent and helpless Kashmiris from being massacred by Indian troops. Addressing a press conference in Karachi yesterday, he said the step to cross the control line will not help in any way the freedom struggle of the Kashmiris.

THK Leaders Oppose Border March

BK0902143892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The leaders of the Tehrik-i-Hurriat-i-Kashmir [THK—Kashmir Freedom Movement] have appealed to the world community to impose economic sanctions against India in order to make her implement UN resolutions on Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the Tehrik leaders, Mr. Farooq Rahmani and Mr. Ghulam Qadir Wani, said that it was necessary to put pressure on India, otherwise its atrocities could increase in desperation. They also called upon the countries who are the upholders of human rights to stop military aid to India. In reply to a question, Mr. Rahmani said that as a principle, THK does not accept the Control Line. But still, it does not support the idea of long march. In our opinion, this would not leave a positive effect on the Kashmir cause.

Kashmiri Leaders Arrested

BK1002111692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Feb ?U (AFP)—Dozens of Kashmiri leaders were arrested as Pakistani authorities blocked roads to stop militants planning to cross into the Indian section of Kashmir, officials and militants said Monday.

The pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said about 250 people were believed arrested as motorcades transporting its workers were intercepted at about half a dozen places.

JKLF chief Amanullah Khan said here that 190 buses were stopped, but that nevertheless hundreds of people had been pouring in with the intention of storming the border Tuesday, despite the clampdown by the authorities.

Police and paramilitary forces manning special checkpoints along roads leading to Kashmir used tree trunks, boulders and artificial landslides to prevent Kashmiri caravans from reaching here, a JKLF spokesman said.

People who tried to clear the roads were heavily teargassed, he said, adding that dozens were injured as police baton-charged the stone-throwing crowd at some places.

Officials contacted by telephone confirmed that dozens of leaders have been detained in Kotli district on this side of the border and in some towns along the 140-kilometer (85-mile) highway from nearby Rawalpindi to Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

The border, known as the Line of Control, has divided Kashmir since 1948.

"We have temporarily blocked the roads," an administration official said, requesting anonymity, adding that activists were detained and other participants were sent back.

He said it was unlikely the JKLF would muster support in the thousands as it had anticipated.

"It seems their programme has failed," another official said, adding that the situation was under control. Security men were allowing some people through after searching them, sources here said.

Officials confirmed that police had resorted to mild baton- charging and that tear gas was used at some places to disperse the marchers.

The JKLF said that despite the crackdown, the group had not changed its programme. "We may change the strategy," a spokesman said, adding that instead of gathering here the activists could take mountain routes to Chakhoti, 55 kilometers (34 miles) southeast of here on the Line of Control.

The JKLF has called for a rally in Chakhoti ahead of the attempt to cross into India.

"We have other plans also, but we cannot disclose at this stage because of security reasons," he said amid reports that some people were already on the way to Chakothi.

"There is tremendous enthusiasm. The Kashmiris are ready to die," he said, adding that the event was viewed as a historic, "now or never" occasion.

JKLF chief Khan was addressing a rally of thousands here Monday afternoon to bid farewell to the marchers.

Pakistani authorities have said they would stop the march "politely but firmly" and major political parties have dissociated themselves from it.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Saturday, "No one should be allowed to play with innocent lives by placing them before the Indian firing squads." The Indian Government has warned that its security forces would fire on anyone who attempted to cross over to Indian Kashmir.

Sharif's call for a general strike last Wednesday in support of the Kashmiris' struggle was widely heeded throughout Pakistan and both parts of Kashmir.

He said his government would continue to back their struggle for self-determination which the United Nations mandated after the first Indo-Pakistan war in 1948.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, prime minister of Pakistani Kashmir, said Kashmiris do not recognise the Line of Control but that "We will (abolish it) at an appropriate time, as crossing it now would harm the struggle."

This is the fourth time that Moslems on this side have planned to cross the line en masse.

Qayyum himself first vowed to cross it in 1951, and he was jailed for 15 months. A well-known Kashmiri leader, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, called for a border crossing in 1952, and the march was stopped by the Pakistani side.

In 1990, six people died and many were injured when Indian troops opened fire on a mob of several thousand Kashmiri youths who tried to storm the border at Chakothi.

8 Injured in Clashes

BK0902153492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 9 (AFP)—The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said here Sunday that police stopped their caravans heading toward the Line of Control in Kashmir, injuring at least eight people in clashes.

Raja Muzaffar, JKLF vice-president, said police and paramilitary contingents had intercepted motorcades at different places en route to Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

The eight were injured when police used tear gas and baton-charged the crowd, adding more than a dozen people had also been arrested in various places.

JKLF has chosen Muzaffarabad as the assembly point for a planned crossing Tuesday of the Line of Control dividing the Pakistan- and Indian-controlled parts of the state.

No official confirmation of the incident was immediately available, though sources here said the government had issued instructions to stop people from reaching Muzaffarabad.

Muzaffar said a motorcade of dozens of buses, vans and private cars carrying hundreds of Kashmiris, which left here earlier in the day, was stopped by police at Jhikagali on the way to Kashmir.

Witnesses said police had seized some vehicles, adding a group of Kashmiris were staging a sit-in on the road near Kohala, a point of entry into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

Several militant groups are fighting for the southern two-thirds of Kashmir to join with Pakistan while others, such as the JKLF, want independence for the whole state.

Meanwhile, Sardar Sikandar Hayat, the president of the Pakistani part of Kashmir, called on Kashmiris not to participate in the march which, he said, would "damage the cause of Kashmiris' freedom struggle."

Kashmiris should desist from any move that could give India an excuse to "harm" Pakistan, Hayat said in a statement sent here from Saudi Arabia where he is currently on a visit.

Chanting "Freedom!," hundreds of people had left here earlier Sunday for Muzaffarabad, many wearing white shrouds to show their willingness to die during Tuesday's march.

The JKLF is expecting 50,000 people to heed its call to march into Indian-administered Kashmir in support of independence for the state despite warnings from Islamabad that it would "politely but firmly" prevent any crossing.

JKLF leaders have called on people to rally at Chakhoti, 55 kilometers (30 miles) from Muzaffarabad, before marching across the Line of Control that has divided Kashmir since a 1948 war. The two countries also fought over the area in 1965.

JKLF leader Amanullah Khan, now in hiding, on Friday urged UN Security Council members to press India not to open fire on demonstrators, warning that responsibility for the tragedy would lie on both the United Nations and India.

"We are determined to cross even if it costs a thousand lives," he said. [passage omitted]

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1050 GMT on 9 February adds the following:

["In New Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir Governor G.C. Saxena told the SUNDAY TIMES the dividing line had been 'selectively mined' and that he did not rule out sporadic gunfire on February 11. 'If any exchange of fire does take place, it could be messy. But we are ready for any contingency, whatever be the numbers on the other side,' he said."]

India 'Trigger-Happy' Over Kashmir

BK1002041492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The Indian Government, never missing an opportunity to unleash barbarous reign of terror on defenseless Kashmiris, appears bent upon blocking by brute force the planned peaceful march of the Kashmiri protestors across the Line of Control into the Indian-held Kashmir. As the government of Pakistan does not consider it wise that the blood of the innocent masses is shed at the crossing, it has tried to dissuade Kashmiris from embarking upon their plan and also adopts necessary measures so that no untoward incident takes place involving any loss of life of the Kashmiri people agitating for their right to self-determination. Pakistan's cautiousness in this matter, of course, tends from the supreme consideration of avoiding a massacre of helpless and peaceful protestors.

India's trigger-happy attitude, however, is equally unmindful of the sanctity of human life as indeed it is provocative. The people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir have a right to cross the Line of Control, which is nothing but a temporary arrangement to indicate the position held by the Indian and Pakistani troops when they agreed to a cease-fire at the end of the earlier hostilities. India's overreaction to the control line crossing plan—part of finding a ready excuse to let loose its tremendous fire power against the unarmed protest marchers—will also (?be a trace of) a certain amount of lawlessness on its part. It is, therefore, in the same breath, holding out venemous threats to Pakistan and the Kashmiris, (?and) is also seeking the sympathy of the international community, particularly those leading world powers which are represented permanently in the United Nation's Security Council.

The surprising aspect of the Indian line of action, however, is that it continues to fight shy of opening up the doors of the held territories for visits by independent and objective international observers, such as the representatives of the human rights organization. Whether the Line of Control crossing planned by the Kashmiris struggling for their homeland's freedom from the clutches of the Indian occupation forces takes place or not, it is Pakistan's sincere desire that it does not come to (?pass) because, it would mean a virtual suicide attempt on the part of the well-meaning Kashmiri patriots. Of course, the world should take note of what is happening inside the Indian held areas. While the people of Kashmir are engaged in a heroic struggle to attain their inalienable right to self determination, the Indian occupation forces are blatantly violating all norms of decent behavior and perpetrating merciless killings, loot, and arson, as well as gang rapes and large-scale house searches. The Indian Government has, of course, gone back brazen-facedly on its international commitment to promote a UN-sponsored plebiscite in the held state to ascertain the will of the people of the state as to whether they wish to join Pakistan or India.

Pakistani people cannot remain oblivious to all that is happening to their kith and kin inside the occupied territories. The least they can do is to extend their brethren political and moral support. The total strike of 5 February was a symbol of the complete solidarity of the Pakistani people with the indigenous uprising of the Kashmiri people that has gained an unprecedented momentum during the last two years. Their course is just and it is the law of both nature and man that their sacrifices of life and honor will not go in vain. It is the responsibility of the entire civilized world to exercise its moral and political pressure over India to give up its unreasonable stand and grant to the Kashmiris peacefully what it is theirs by right.

Kashmir Movement Urges Economic Boycott of India

BK0902114492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] The Movement for the Liberation of Kashmir comprising parties and groups active in the struggle for liberation of occupied Kashmir has called upon the international community to impose an economic boycott on India to force it to implement the UN resolution on Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, two leaders of the movement, Dr. Ghulam Qadir Wani and Mr. Farooq Rahmani, appreciated Pakistan's moral and political support to the cause of Kashmiris. They impressed upon all political parties in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to leave aside other matters and unitedly help Kashmiris achieve their objective.

Sri Lanka

50 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0802102892 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0928 GMT 8 Feb 92

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Over 50 terrorists were killed and more than 400 weapons destroyed this week as security forces hit back hard at the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who were carrying out hit and run strikes on military positions in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that an estimated 33 terrorists were killed Friday in fierce fighting with troops of operation "Razor" at "Beirut Base", the LTTE's headquarters at Illukku, in the Batticaloa District, 300 kilometres from Colombo.

An officer and eight soldiers were also killed and 17 wounded in the pitched battle which began at 1000 hours local time (0530 hours GMT), Friday.

The sources said the troops of Operation Razor were returning from a blocking position, when they came across the Beirut Base headquarters of the LTTE Batticaloa District leader Karuna and were attacked by about 300 terrorists resulting in a fierce firefight.

Troops who were operational in the same area rushed to the assistance of the soldiers under attack and engaged the terrorists.

An estimated 33 terrorists were killed and a large number wounded, while an officer and seven soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in action.

Official sources said that 10 terrorists were killed and 19 seriously wounded, including their leader who was rushed in a Pajero ambulance to the Kilinochchi hospital when the security forces repulsed an attack by a group of 25 terrorists on the forward defence locality (FDL), north east of Thandikulam in the northern Vavuniya District.

An officer and three soldiers were killed in this battle.

Air force planes bombed and destroyed a temporary LTTE weapons dump containing 400 automatic weapons at Pulliyankulam, near the turn off to Nedunkerni, in the Vavuniya District, to preempt an LTTE strike on the security forces FDL.

Official sorces said the air strike had destroyed a pile of 400 weapons to be used by cadres brought in from Point Pedro for the planned attack on the FDL.